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TOUR

THROUGH THE

HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND,

AND THE

84412

HEBRIDE ISLES,

IN

MDCCLXXXVI.

BY JOHN KNOX.

Certainly Not.

LONDON:

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MDCCLXXXVII.

84412

TO THE

NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN,

MEMBERS OF THE

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR EXTENDING THE FISHERIES, &c.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I EMBRACE this early opportunity of congratulating the Public upon an event, which, while it reflects immortal honour on your humanity and patriotic ſpirit, will contribute, in a moſt eminent degree, to the ſecurity and proſperity of theſe kingdoms.

A very conſiderable part of this iſland was lying almoſt in a ſtate of nature; the riches of its ſhores, tho' more im-

portant to great national purpoſes than the mines of Mexico and Peru, were ſcarcely ſought after. A great body of people, having no means of employment, were rendered torpid by idleneſs: they were frequently expoſed to famine; and many of them forced, through neceſſity, to abandon their barren, but beloved wilds.

Their grievances had been ſlightly repreſented in the writings of ſome eminent men of the preſent age. But theſe pictures of diſtreſs, though they might occaſion a ſigh in the breaſt of the humane reader, were forgotten amidſt the cloud of occurrences which glide away with time into the gulph of oblivion.

Something farther was neceſſary, to impreſs the mind more deeply, to awaken the ſenſes as from a lethargy, and to

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erect an eſtabliſhment upon the ſolid baſis of virtues, which in all ages have been juſtly conſidered as the glory of humanity.

When the paſſing tale was new-modelled, collected, and compreſſed within a narrow point, aided, in the recital, by language which came from the heart, it then proved ſufficiently in uniſon with the feelings of the times: its effects were inſtantaneous, and are likely to become permanently and completely efficacious.

To you, my Lords and Gentlemen, Britain owes the great national acquiſition that is before us. To you, the naked, the hungry, and the helpleſs; the deſponding parent, the huſband, and the widow, will look up in tranſports of gratitude. When neceſſity and deſpair had

thinned many diſtricts, and threatened more, you voluntarily ſtept forth, with the benevolent reſolution to procure that relief which the circumſtances of the country and the people required. The Public have caught the generous flame, and, from preſent appearances, there is every reaſon to believe, that the year M DCC LXXXVI will form an æra in the Britiſh annals.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

With the greateſt reſpect,

Your moſt devoted,

Humble ſervant,

JOHN KNOX.

LONDON,
March 28, 1787.

DISSERTATIONS

ON THE

ANCIENT AND MODERN STATE

OF THE

HIGHLANDS.

OF THE ANCIENT CALEDONIA, AND THE HEBRIDE ISLANDS.

WHEN the Romans carried their arms into Britain,* the whole iſland was poſſeſſed by three nations, ſprung originally, though at very different periods, from the Celtæ or the Gaël of the continent. Theſe were the Caledonians, the Cimbri, and the Belgæ. Though deſcended from the ſame ſource, their ſeparation into different channels was very remote. The Gaël,

* Introduction to the Hiſtory of Great Britain and Ireland, by James Macpherſon, Eſq.

Critical Diſſertations on the Origin, Antiquities, Language, Government, &c. of the ancient Caledonians, their Poſterity the Picts, and the Britiſh and Iriſh Scots, by John Macpherſon, D. D. Miniſter of Slate, in the Iſle of Sky.

Gaël, who poſſeſſed the northern Britain, by the name of Caledonia, having paſſed from the continent before the arts of civil life had made any conſiderable progreſs among them, retained the pure but unimproved language of their anceſtors, together with their rude ſimplicity of manners.

The Cimbri and Belgæ, falling under the power of the Romans, ſoon after they were mentioned by hiſtorians, were loſt in the general name of Britons.

In proportion as we travel northward in ancient Britain, the darkneſs which involves the antiquities of its inhabitants, thickens before us. The Cimbri and Belgæ, after they were comprehended within the pale of the Roman dominions, were ſeen diſtinctly; but the more ancient inhabitants of the iſland, the Gaël, appeared only tranſiently, when, in an hoſtile manner, they advanced to the frontiers of the province. The arms of the empire penetrated, at different periods, into the heart of the country beyond the Scottiſh firths; but as theſe expeditions were not attended with abſolute conqueſt, and a conſequent ſettlement of colonies, the Romans made little inquiry concerning the origin and

and hiſtory of the natives of the northern diviſion of Britain.

Julius Agricola, who, for the firſt time, diſplayed the Roman Eagle beyond the firths, was not more ſucceſsful in the field than he was happy in an hiſtorian to tranſmit his actions with luſtre to poſterity.--- But even the diſtinct and intelligent Tacitus gives but a very imperfect idea of thoſe enemies, by the defeat of whom his father-in-law acquired ſo much reputation. We learn from him indeed, that the Caledonians were the moſt ancient inhabitants of Britain; that they were brave and numerous; that, though overcome in the field by the diſcipline of the Roman legions, they were far from being reduced into any ſubjection which could deſerve the name of conqueſt.

After Agricola was removed from the government of Britain, the writers of the empire for ſome years loſt ſight of the Caledonians. The incurſions of thoſe Barbarians into the province, forced both Adrian and Antoninus Pius to conſtruct walls, at an immenſe labour and expence, to exclude their ſavages. In the reign of Commodus, neither walls, nor the military abilities and conduct of Marcellus,

Marcellus, could prevent them from laying waſte the northern diviſion of the Roman Britain, till Severus, about the beginning of the third century, carried the war into their country with a numerous army. This is the ſum of what the Romans have related concerning the Caledonians for near two centuries after they were firſt mentioned: to their origin and internal hiſtory the writers of Rome were equally ſtrangers.

This defect in foreign writers, with regard to the ancient inhabitants of North Britain, is not ſupplied by any authentic monuments of their own. The Caledonians were not more deſtitute of the means of preſerving their hiſtory in the intermediate century between Agricola and Severus, than their poſterity were for a conſiderable time after the Romans had relinquiſhed the dominion of Britain. The climate and ſoil of Caledonia were far from being favourable to internal civilization; and a ferocity of manners, ariſing from an uninterrupted ſeries of hoſtilities, effectually prevented the introduction of the arts of civil life from abroad.

But when the Scots look back with regret upon that want of letters which has involved

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in obſcurity and fable the origin and hiſtory of their anceſtors, they ought to conſider, that probably from this circumſtance they maintained their national independence, which they tranſmitted to their poſterity.

From the united teſtimonies of Tacitus, Dio, and Solinus, we find, that the ancient Caledonia comprehended all that country lying to the north of the rivers Forth and Clyde. In proportion as the Silures or Cimbri advanced towards the north, the Caledonians, being circumſcribed within narrower limits, were forced to tranſmigrate into the iſlands which croud the weſtern coaſts of Scotland. It is in this period, probably, we ought to place the firſt great migration of the Britiſh Gaël into Ireland; that kingdom being much nearer to the promontory of Galloway and Cantire, than many of the Scottiſh iſles are to the continent of North Britain.*

To the country which the Caledonians poſſeſſed, they gave the name of *Caël-doch*, which is the only appellation the Scots, who ſpeak the Galic language, know for their own

* The channel between Galloway and Ireland is only 20 miles, and between Cantire and that kingdom, 13 miles.

own diviſion of Britain. *Caël-doch* is a compound, made up of *Gaël* or *Caël*, the firſt colony of the ancient Gauls who tranſmigrated into Britain, and *doch*, a diſtrict or diviſion of a country. The Romans, by tranſpoſing the letter *l* in *Caël*, and by ſoftening into a Latin termination the *ch* of *doch*, formed the well known name of Caledonia.

When the tribes of North Britain were attacked by the Romans, they entered into aſſociations, that by uniting their ſtrength, they might be more able to repel the common enemy. The particular name of that tribe, which either its ſuperior power or military reputation placed at the head of the aſſociation, was the general name given by the Romans to all the confederates.

Hence it is that the *Mæatæ*, who with other tribes inhabited the diſtricts of Scotland lying ſouthward of the Firth, and the *Caledonians*, who inhabited the weſt and north weſt parts, have engroſſed all the glory which belonged in common, though in an inferior degree, to all the other nations ſettled of old in North Britain. It was for the ſame reaſon that the name of *Mæatæ* was entirely forgotten

forgotten by foreign writers after the third century, and that of the *Caledonians* themſelve but ſeldom mentioned after the fourth.

Britains, Caledonians, Mæatæ, Barbarians, are the names conſtantly given to the old inhabitants of North Britain, by Tacitus, Herodian, Dio, Spartian, Vopiſcus, and other ancient writers. The ſucceſſors of theſe Britains, Caledonians, Mæats, and Barbarians, are called Picts, Scots, and Attacots, by ſome Roman writers of the fourth century.

The origin of the appellation *Scotti* and *Picti*, introduced by latter Roman authors, has occaſioned much controverſy among the antiquarians of theſe days. The diſpute ſeems now to be fully decided by ſome learned critics of the preſent century, particularly by the before mentioned gentlemen, whoſe knowledge of the Galic language aſſiſted their inveſtigations.

The term Attacots diſappeared with the nation who introduced it. We ſhall now diſtinguiſh the people of the north by that of Scots and Picts. By the Scots is to be underſtood the nations who, after the departure of the Romans, inhabited the weſt ſide

of

of that kingdom, including both the Highlands and the Lowlands.

The Picts poſſeſſed all the eaſt country, which was the moſt fertile part of North Britain. The two nations, though originally one people, were continually at war with one another, or with the Britains, and afterwards the Saxons of the ſouth part of the iſland.

At laſt the Scottiſh arms prevailed over the Picts, when North Britain was united under one monarch in the year 843, whoſe deſcendants have ſwayed the crown to the preſent time. The names of Picts and Pictland, were now loſt in thoſe of Scots and Scotland; but a new diſtinction aroſe in after ages. The inhabitants of the mountaineous parts were called Highlanders, while thoſe who lived in the more fertile and level countries were known by the general name of Lowlanders. Theſe diſtinctions ſtill remain; but the Highlanders continue to ſpeak the ancient Celtic language in its purity, and to retain their ancient vigour, bravery, hoſpitality, and ſimplicity of manners.

The

The Lowlanders are a mixture of the ancient Caledonians, the original ſtock of the country, with ſouthern Britains, Saxons, and modern Engliſh. The Highlanders are ſtrangers to the national name of Scots; they call the Low Country people *Albinich*, or the inhabitants of *Albin*. To the Engliſh they give the name of *Saſſenachs*, or the Saxons; and their country, *Saſſen*, the land of the Saxons.

Theſe two people, though compoſing one nation, and governed by one line of princes through a long ſeries of ages, continued in ſome degree hoſtile to one another, and ſeldom aſſimulated in any one circumſtance, excepting their mutual exertions in defence of their country and liberties, which they carried on with incredible ſteadineſs, perſeverance, and ſucceſs, from the firſt invaſion of the Romans, to the union of the two Britiſh crowns.

The moſt formidable and barbarous invaders of that kingdom, after the ſubverſion of the Roman empire, were the various tribes of the northern hive, known by the name

name of Eaſterlings, Danes, and Norwegians. The country which they inhabited was the ancient Scandinavia, now Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

The produce of their mountains being inſufficient for the ſupport of their increaſing numbers, great bodies of men ventured boldly acroſs the main ocean, in ſearch of better countries. Their firſt attempts were made, it may be ſuppoſed, againſt that part of Britain which lies neareſt to the continent. This was the north-eaſt coaſt of Scotland, between which (at Peterhead) and the Naze of Norway, the diſtance is only 85 leagues, or 255 miles.

The appearance and the fertility of that coaſt would naturally lead them to more diſtant enterprizes. They extended their ravages on every ſide, from the Thames to the Orkneys; they reſolutely ventured upon the Pentland Firth, the moſt dangerous navigation in the northern ſeas; they doubled Cape Wrath; fell upon the helpleſs iſlands of the Hebrides; and from thence they paſſed ſouthward to Ireland, which they partly ſubdued.

The people of the Hebrides ſeem to have been governed by their own chiefs or petty *reguli*, with a dependance upon the crown of Scotland, from the fourth till nearly the end of the eleventh century, when they fell into the hands of the Norwegians, in the following manner.

About the middle of the eleventh century, Duncan king of Scotland being murdered by his couſin Macbeth, who on that event mounted the throne, Malcolm and Donald Bane, the two ſons of the late king, fled; the eldeſt into England, and the youngeſt into the Hebride Iſles.

Seward, Earl of Northumberland, by the command of Edward the Confeſſor, aſſiſted Malcolm in recovering the crown from the uſurper, whom he defeated and killed.

Sometime after Malcolm's death, Donald his brother, who had reſided in the Hebrides during the two laſt reigns, laid a claim to the throne of Scotland, in oppoſition to his brother's children, and to ſecure the ſame, he entered into an alliance with Magnus king of Norway, to whom he ceded the Hebrides, in conſideration of aſſiſtance to be afforded him in ſupport of his uſurpation.

In 1098, Magnus arrives with a powerful armament on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland, falls upon the iſlands with mercileſs fury, ſeizes the cattle, burns the dwellings, and deſtroys the inhabitants. Many of theſe unhappy people fly, ſome to Cantire, and others to Ireland: Magnus purſues them to both countries, carries fire and ſword wherever he goes, ſubdues the Iſle of Man, makes an attack upon the Iſle of Angleſey, receives preſents from the Welch, who are glad to purchaſe his friendſhip, ſends his ſhoes to Murcard, king of Ireland, and commands him under the pain of his diſpleaſure, to carry them on his ſhoulders, in the preſence of his ambaſſadors, on the anniverſary of Chriſt's nativity. The Iriſh nobility receive this inſolent meſſage with becoming ſentiments of diſdain and indignation: But Murcard tells his friends that he would eat the ſhoes of the Norwegian monarch rather than ſee any one province in Ireland deſtroyed.

Theſe particulars are copied, from the poems of two Norwegian bards who attended Magnus in this memorable expedition.

The Norwegians divided the Hebride Iſlands into two parts, agreeably to their ſituation,

and

and appointed a governor to each. To the ſouthern diviſion they gave the name of *Sudereys*, and to the northern diviſion, that of *Nordureys*. The point of Ardnamurchan in Argyleſhire was the boundery that ſeparated theſe diviſions. Theſe, with the Iſle of Man, and the narrow peninſula of Cantire, compoſed the Norwegian kingdom of Man and the Iſles.

The ſouthern diviſion of the Hebrides was reckoned more conſiderable than the northern. The ſeat of government was fixed in the former: The kings kept their court in the Iſle of Man, and ſent deputies into the Nordureys, who reſided either in Sky, or in the Lewis. Theſe governors or viceroys were ſometimes Norwegians, and more frequently natives of the iſles.

Alexander II. king of Scotland, a wiſe and powerful prince, having in vain attempted to recover the Hebrides by negotiation, equipped a fleet with a determined reſolution of driving the Norwegian uſurpers out of his dominions. But while he lay on the coaſt of Harris he was ſeized with a fever, of which he died at Bernera, in the year 1249.

Alexander III. takes the moſt effectual meaſures to recover the iſlands, and to revenge his father's death. He ſends a ſquadron, under the command of the earl of Roſs, to reduce the ſmall iſles. Haquin, king of Norway, ſails in 1263, to Shetland, and from thence to the Orkneys, then a part of his dominions, where he joins his fleet. From thence he proceeds to the Firth of Clyde, where he diſembarks 20,000 men at a place called the Largs, gives battle to the Scottiſh army, by whom he receives a complete defeat, with the loſs of two thirds of his forces*. Upon this deciſive event he returns to the Orkneys, where, being overwhelmed with grief, he expires ſoon after.

In this manner were the Hebride Iſlands re-annexed to the Scottiſh crown, after they had been ſubject to Norway above 160 years.

Between

* The intrenchments of the Norwegian camp may ſtill be traced along the ſhore of this place. The Scottiſh commanders who fell in battle were buried in a riſing ground near the village. Three or four perſons were buried in one grave; on each ſide of which was a large flat ſtone; theſe, with a ſtone at each end, ſupported a larger one which lay over the grave at the height of ſome feet. Some years ago, the proprietor of the field demoliſhed theſe repoſitories of the dead, leaving only one, which ſerves to give an idea of the whole. The inhabitants of this place are well acquainted, from tradition, with the particulars of the battle. They likewiſe deſcribe the place where it was fought, and point out the encampments.

Between this period and the reign of James III. theſe iſlands proved no great acquiſition to the ſtrength of Scotland, neither did they contribute towards the ſupport of the State.

The decendants of the Hebridean viceroys under the Norwegian government, exerciſed a regal power, and ſometimes aſſumed the royal title; but they are more often ſtiled in hiſtory, *the Earls of Roſs—Lords of the Iſles*—or *the Great Macdonald.*

Theſe chiefs frequently embroiled the kingdom of Scotland in civil commotions, and transferred their allegiance to the kings of England, by whom they were kept in pay.—John, the laſt of theſe great lords, after attempting to ſubvert the government of his country, loſt the earldom of Roſs, in the reign of James III. but was permitted to retain Knapdale and Cantire; and was inveſted anew with the lordſhip of the iſles, to hold them of the king by ſervice and relief.

Their power being thus broken, the inferior chieftans, who had been long the obſequious vaſſals of this family, embraced ſo favourable an opportunity of aſſerting their liberties, procured new rights to their eſtates, and proved from thence forward more tractable ſubjects.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HEBRIDE AND ORKNEY ISLANDS, BY ANCIENT AUTHORS.

THOUGH the following accounts are very imperfect, they afford ſufficient evidence of the population of the Hebride Iſlands, and conſequently of the Weſt Highlands, long before the Romans appeared in North Britain. Pythias, a Maſſilian, boaſted that he had travelled over all the Northern diviſion of Europe, to the very extremities of the world: "A ſtory not to be credited," ſays Strabo, "though Mercury himſelf had told "it." He pretended to have viſited Britain in the courſe of his peregrinations, and with great gravity gives a circumſtantial, though partly fabulous deſcription of that iſland. He ſays that he made a voyage to Thule, the remoteſt iſland belonging to Britain, at the diſtance of ſix days ſailing from it, in the ſkirts of the Frozen Ocean.* It was a place, according to him, which was neither earth, ſea, nor air, but ſomething like a compoſition of

* Some ſuppoſe the Thule of the ancients to have been the Shetland Iſlands, others carry it as far as Iceland.

of all of them, ſomething reſembling, to uſe his own expreſſion, the lungs of the ſea.

Yet this writer has ſome remarks on the climate of the Hebrides* that merit credit. He mentions the unfavourableneſs of the ſky, that prohibits the growth of the finer fruits; and ſays, that the natives are obliged to carry their corn under ſhelter, to beat the grain out, leaſt it ſhould be ſpoiled by the want of ſun ſhine, and violence of the rains. A modern writer could not give a more juſt deſcription of that climate.

The geographer Mela, who was cotemporary with the emperor Claudius, is the next writer who deſcribes the northern iſlands. He mentions the Orkneys, and ſays they were thirty in number, with narrow channels between them. This account is remarkably juſt. He is leſs accurate in his account of the Shetland Iſlands, which he calls the *Aemodoe*, and limits their number to ſeven. He is ſilent reſpecting the Hebride Iſlands.

* The name given to the Weſtern Iſlands by the ancients was *Ebudae*, and the modern name is *Hebride*. This variation aroſe, in the opinion of Dr. Macpherſon, from an error of a tranſcriber, who changed the *u* into *ri*. The ancient name of the *Orkneys* was *Orcades*.

Pliny the Elder, is the third who mentions the northern iſlands. He makes the number of the Orkneys to be forty, and of the Hebrides to be thirty.

Solinus, the ſuppoſed cotemporary with Agricola, is the next after Pliny. He reduces the number of the Hebrides to five: He ſays that, " the inhabitants were unacquainted " with corn; that they lived only on fiſh " and milk; that they had one king, as the " iſlands were only ſeparated from each other " by narrow ſtraits. That their prince was " bound by government, to do juſtice; and " was kept within bounds by poverty; being " ſupported by the public, and allowed no- " thing that he could call his own; not " even a wife; but he was allowed free " choice by turns, one out of every diſtrict, " of any female that gained his affections; " which deprived him of all ambition about " a ſucceſſor."

It is probable that this author meant the Long Iſland only, which is compoſed of five principal iſlands, called Lewis, North Uiſt, Benbecula, South Uiſt, and Bara, ſeparated from each other by narrow channels.

Ptolemy

Ptolemy, the famous Egyptian geographer, mentions the ſame number, which he calls the Weſtern *Ebudae*, the Eaſtern *Ricina*, *Maleos*, *Epidium*, by which, in Cambden's opinion, he meant the modern Sky, Lewis, Racline, on the northern coaſt of Ireland, Mull and Ilay.

Writers of the middle ages generally compute the number of the Hebride Iſlands at thirty-two, and the old natives make them only twenty-four. The difference among authors in this reſpect is no argument of inaccuracy; ſome included the great iſlands only, in their deſcriptions; others extended their calculations to the inferior iſlands alſo.

POETRY OF THE ANCIENT CALEDONIANS.

THE moſt ancient poetry and ſongs, in the Galic language, reach to the days of Fingal, a celebrated Caledonian hero, cotemporary with the Romans in Britain. Moſt of them are attributed to Oſſian the ſon of that monarch, and much has been ſaid for and againſt their authenticity. This controverſy has been honoured with ſeveral reſpectable names, among whom are Dr. Blair, Lord Kaims, and Dr. Johnſon.

The proper writers, however, for diſcuſſing this ſubject, are the natives of the Highlands, who from their knowledge of the ancient Galic, the traditions, proverbs and ſayings of the people, the names of places, waters, iſles, caves, mountains, and other circumſtances, have a great advantage over Engliſhmen, or Low Country Scotſmen, in the diſpute. The former ſpeak from facts, the latter from conjecture.

It is ſaid, that a ſplendid edition of Oſſian's works is now printing in the original language, under the care of the learned tranſlator, who will probably enter the field of controverſy with many new lights, and with redoubled

doubled vigour. Among other materials he will find conſiderable aſſiſtance in a new work, publiſhed in 1780, from which I ſhall give the following extract.*

" The learned Dr. Johnſon ſuppoſes the Caledonians to have been always a rude and illiterate people, who had never any written language. But this aſſertion is manifeſtly without foundation; for we can ſtill produce a number of old manuſcripts in the Galic language. When the Druids, who ſpoke this tongue, and were by no means unlearned, had been driven from the reſt of Britain, thoſe of Caledonſa, took up their reſidence in Iona, one of the Hebrides, where they had a college, and lived and taught unmoleſted, till they

* Galic Antiquities: conſiſting of a hiſtory of the Druids, particularly of thoſe of Caledonia; a diſſertation on the authenticity of the poems of Oſſian; and a collection of ancient Poems, tranſlated from the Galic of Ullin, Oſſian, Orran, &c. By John Smith, miniſter of Kilbrandon, Argyleſhire.

The Rev. Mr. M'Nicholl, of Liſmore, Mr. John Clarke, of Edinburgh, tranſlator of the Caledonian Bards, and ſeveral other judges of the Galic Language, have alſo taken a zealous part on a ſubject, which, if the opinion of a Low Country traveller in the Highlands may be allowed to have the ſmalleſt weight, is ſo completely decided, as to require no farther defence.

they were diſpoſſeſſed by St. Columba in the ſixth century. For ſeveral ages after that period, Iona was one of the moſt famous ſeats of learning which this, or any of the neighbouring kingdoms could boaſt of; and the language in which almoſt all this learning was retained, and written, was the Galic. The difference between this and the Iriſh, which the doctor and ſome others lay ſo much ſtreſs upon, is of no very ancient date. The language of Columba, who had his education in the Iriſh ſchools, appears, from what remains of his compoſitions, to have been pure Galic; and the elegy of his Bard over the famous Iriſh champion Murcha Macbrian, of an older date, is no leſs ſo. From this identity of the language during ſo many ages, and from the conſtant intercourſe between the two countries, it may be inferred, that any cultivation which the language received was common to both kingdoms.

" To theſe obſervations I add a few facts, to prove that we had for a long time back a written language. In the Iſland of Mull, in the neighbourhood of Iona, there has been from time immemorial, till very lately, a ſucceſſion of *Ollas*, or *Graduate Doctors*, in a family

family of the name of Maclean, whoſe writings, to the amount of a large cheſt full, were all wrote in Galic. What remained of this treaſure was, not many years ago, bought up as a literary curioſity, at the deſire of the duke of Chandos, and is ſaid to have periſhed in the wreck of that nobleman's fortune.

" Lord Kaims (Sketches, B. I.) mentions a Galic manuſcript of the firſt four Books of Fingal, which the tranſlator of Oſſian found in the Iſle of Sky, of as old a date as the year 1403. Juſt now I have in my poſſeſſion a mutilated treatiſe of phyſic, and another of anatomy, with part of a calendar, belonging probably to ſome ancient monaſtery, all in this language and character. Theſe pieces, when compared with others of a later date, appear to be ſeveral centuries old. I had the uſe of another equally ancient from Capt. M'Lauchlan, of the 55th regiment. It conſiſted of ſome poems and a theological diſcourſe. From theſe obſervations and facts, it clearly appears, that ever ſince the time of the Druids, the Galic has been always a written language.

We

"We now proceed, continues Mr. Smith, to thoſe cauſes, to which we owe, for ſo many ages, the preſervation of Oſſian. Of theſe, the inſtitution of the bards deſerve our firſt notice. In a country, the only one perhaps in the world, in which there was always, from the earlieſt period to almoſt the preſent age, a ſtanding order of poets, we cannot reaſonably be ſurpriſed, either at finding excellent poems compoſed, or, after being compoſed, carefully preſerved from oblivion. A great part of the buſineſs of this order was to watch over the poems of Oſſian. In every family of diſtinction, there was at leaſt one principal bard, and always a number of diſciples, who vied with each other in having theſe poems in the greateſt perfection; ſo that if a line was added, altered, or left out by any one, another would not fail to ſhew his zeal and ſuperiority, by correcting him. They had likewiſe frequent opportunities, in attending their chiefs to other families, of meeting in crowds and rehearſing theſe poems, which, at home or abroad, were night and day their employment.——Should the inſtitution of the bards laſt for ever, the poems of Oſſian could never periſh.

"Nor

" Nor were they only the bards of great families who were here concerned. The vaſſal, equally fond of the ſong with his ſuperior, entertained himſelf in the ſame manner; and all, under his influence, by contributing to his amuſement in this way, were ſure of obtaining his favour. This, with a life free from care, a ſpirit unbroken by labour, and a ſpace of time unoccupied by any other employment or diverſion, contributed to render the Highlanders a nation of ſingers and poets. From the recital of a variety of compoſitions, they would naturally be led to make compariſons of their merit. This would form their taſte better than all the rules of the critics. The conſequence of this taſte would be a predilection in favour of the poems of Oſſian; the ſuperior merit of which was ſufficient to procure them immortality from a people leſs addicted to the tale and the ſong than were the Highlanders of paſt ages.

" Every reaſon indeed, private or public, that can be ſuppoſed, helped to preſerve theſe remains of antiquity. They inſpired ſuch a brave and martial ſpirit, ſuch love to the country, and ſuch fidelity to the chief,

chief, as made it much the intereſt of the chieftans, or body politic, to preſerve them. For this reaſon, probably, no leſs than for their entertainment, were they led to keep a family bard. To the poems of Oſſian we may attribute a good ſhare of that martial ſpirit and enthuſiaſm for war, till of late, ſo remarkable in the iſlands. This ſpirit flouriſhed with the poems of Oſſian, and, in a great meaſure, it died with them.

"It was likewiſe the intereſt of the religious to preſerve theſe compoſitions. They well knew how nearly the morality of any people is connected with the ſongs which they are continually repeating. The human heart, they knew, muſt always draw a tincture from thoſe ideas which it is not only much converſant with, but which come alſo recommended with the united charms of muſic and poetry. To this it is owing, that, in all religions, ſinging the praiſes of ſuperior Beings, or of the Supreme, made a conſiderable part of the worſhip, in hopes that the mind, by the contemplation of ſuch perfections, might naturally be led to their imitation. And on the ſame principle, poems or ſongs that breathed ſuch ſentiments

timents of juſtice, generoſity, humanity, and every great and amiable virtue, deſerved no leſs from the preachers of the nobleſt morality, than to be encouraged and regarded. They were too wiſe to do otherwiſe; eſpecially as the mythology of thoſe poems laid a proper foundation for ſuch ſuperſtructures as thoſe prieſts were ſometimes fond of building. One ſhould rather think they would be diſpoſed to add ſomething to the poems of Oſſian, than to take any thing away from them. But ſuch a number of bards as guarded them, made it impoſſible to do the one or the other. As it was the intereſt of the churchmen and chieftans to preſerve the poems of Oſſian, it was alſo the concern of the vulgar. Every clan boaſted its deſcent from ſome or other of the heroes whom theſe poems celebrate; and this was enough to recommend them, although the poetry had not been ſo excellent. Their being likewiſe ſo often addreſſed to ſome "Son of the Rock," by whom was underſtood either the tutelar ſaint of the place, or ſome of the firſt miſſionaries of Chriſtianity, never failed, till men grew more indifferent about religion, to procure them the

higheſt veneration. We may alſo obſerve, that every hill and dale they walked over was claſſic ground. They felt an enthuſiaſm which antiquaries need not be told of, when they trod it. Every mountain, rock, and river, around them, were immortalized in ſong. This ſong the very ſight of theſe objects would forcibly ſuggeſt, and every one would naturally hum it as he walked along. All the proverbs and cuſtoms to which theſe poems gave riſe, would operate in the ſame manner, whenever they were heard. The ſon would aſk what they meant, and the father with pleaſure would tell him.

"On this head we may alſo obſerve, that the Highlanders, being always a diſtinct and unſubdued people, contributed greatly to preſerve their cuſtoms, traditions, and poems. Their ſouthern neighbours ſometimes preſſed on them from the one ſide, and the Danes often harraſſed them on the other; but ſtill they kept poſſeſſion of their mountains; and, like a bow that has been held bent only by force, took the firſt opportunity of recovering their former ſituation. And as the country in general, ſo every particular part of it, had its fixed inhabitants. The ſame clan, from

one

one generation to another, lived in the ſame valley, and became almoſt as much a part of it as the ſtream that watered it. This would produce an uncommon attachment to the place, and to the ancient ſong that ſpoke of it; which would, on all occaſions, make a part in their entertainment. How generally theſe poems were repeated is manifeſt from the unfluctuated ſtate in which the Galic language has remained ſince the æra of their compoſition. They always formed a ſtandard, with which all ranks of people, in all parts of the country, were familiar; and from which, while it was ſo well known, their ſtyle could never greatly deviate. Hence a Highlander ſtill underſtands almoſt every line in the poems of Oſſian: whereas, in Ireland, where the inhabitants did not remain ſo unmixed, and where this ſtandard was not ſo generally attended to, the ſame language has undergone ſo conſiderable a change as to ſeem now rather a different tongue from the Scots Galic, and from theſe poems, than a different dialect.

" This obſervation is likewiſe no inconſiderable argument for the antiquity and authenticity of theſe poems: that the Galic language, ſpoken in diſtricts ſo diſtant and diſtinct, ſepa-

rated by ſo many ſeas, mountains, heaths, foreſts, and having little or no commerce or communication with each other, ſhould, notwithſtanding all this, remain for fifteen hundred years ſo little corrupted or varied as to appear ſtill like the language of almoſt one family, is difficult to account for on any other ſuppoſition than that of their having all one common ſtandard. Every body knows how faſt the Engliſh language fluctuated till ſuch a ſtandard was formed by the tranſlation of the ſcriptures.

" Having aſſigned ſo many cauſes for the preſervation of the poems of Oſſian, whilſt theſe cauſes operated; we now proceed to account for their being in a great meaſure loſt ſo ſuddenly.

" That we have not the whole of the poems of Oſſian, or even of the collection tranſlated by Mr. Macpherſon, we allow: yet ſtill we have many of them, and of almoſt all a part. The building is not entire, but we have ſtill the grand ruins of it.

" Within a century back, the Highlands of Scotland have undergone a greater revolution than for ten centuries before that period. With a quicker pace the feudal ſyſtem vaniſhed;

niſhed; property fluctuated; new laws and new cuſtoms ſtepped in, and ſupplanted the old; and all this with ſuch ſudden and ſuch violent convulſions, as may well account for the ſhaking of a fabric, which before ſeemed to defy time, and ſtood the wonder and delight of ages. Even ſince Mr. Macpherſon gathered his collection, the amuſements, employments, and taſte, of the Highlanders, are much altered. A greater attention to commerce, aggriculture, and paſturage, has quite engroſſed that partial regard, which was paid even then, to the ſong of the bard. In twenty years hence, if manners continue to change ſo faſt as they do at preſent, the fainteſt traces ſhall ſcarcely be found of our ancient tales and poems. "Oſſian himſelf is the laſt of his "race, and he too ſhall ſoon be no more; for "his grey branches are already ſtrewed on all "the winds."

"Among the cauſes which make our ancient poems vaniſh ſo rapidly, poverty and the iron rod ſhould, in moſt places, have a large ſhare. From the baneful ſhade of theſe *murderers of the muſe*, "the light of the ſong" muſt faſt retire. No other reaſon need be aſked, why the preſent Highlanders neglect ſo

much the ſongs of their fathers.—Once the humble, but happy vaſſal, ſat at his eaſe, at the foot of his grey rock or green tree. Few were his wants, and fewer ſtill his cares; for he beheld his herds ſporting around him on his then unmeaſured mountain. He hummed the careleſs ſong, and tuned his harp with joy, while his ſoul in ſilence bleſſed his chieftan—now—I was going to draw the compariſon;

"———Sed Cynthius aurem
"Vellit, et admonuit."

It is with very different feelings that I mention, as another reaſon for the neglect of theſe and other ancient traditions, the growth of induſtry, which fills up all the blanks of time to better advantage, and eſpecially the increaſe of more uſeful knowledge.

"Above all, the extinction of the order of the bards haſtened the cataſtrophe of Oſſian's poems. In a ſingle family only has any of this order been retained ſince the beginning of this century, and the laſt in that family came down to our times in a very advanced life.* His

*Macvurich, Bard to Clanronald. Happening in 1786, to meet Clanronald at Glaſgow, in my way to the Weſt Highlands,

His favourite ſongs are ſaid to have been the poems of Oſſian. When age was coming on, memory beginning to fail, and no ſucceſſor likely to appear, he had ſo many of them as he moſt admired, committed to writing. By a happy coincidence, Mr. Macpherſon overtook this bard, and got his treaſure. This fact, with the *red book*, formerly mentioned, and ſome other manuſcripts, accounts for his having theſe poems in greater number and perfection, than they could ever ſince be met with. Were there any inducement, however, adequate to the labour and expence of a careful ſearch, the beſt, though not, perhaps, the largeſt, part might ſtill be found; yet this, it is probable, would not produce, in reſolved ſceptics, any more conviction than the many remains already ſhewn.

Thoſe gentlemen, therefore, who take pains to ſatisfy them in this manner, might as well give them up with a ſmile, as the people of Iona did the man who would not believe that ever they had, in that remote country, any

lands, he, among other inducements for my viſiting him at Benbecula, ſaid, that he would ſhow me a number of manuſcript poems and ſongs, which had been long in the family.

cathedral; for this good reaſon, becauſe he could ſee nothing but the ruins of a building, which, for ought he knew, he ſaid, might never have had a roof upon it.

" Having, continues our author, ſaid ſo much for the authenticity of the poems tranſlated by Mr. Macpherſon, it may be proper now to give ſome account of the few that follow. Early ſtruck with the beauty of ſome of them in the original, and finding that they had eſcaped the inquiries of the able and ingenious tranſlator of Oſſian, whoſe reſearches were chiefly confined to the more northern parts of the Highlands, I began to collect them for my own amuſement. Beyond this I had no further view, till the tranſlation of two ſhort fragments, at the deſire of ſome gentlemen, who compoſed a Galic Society in Glaſgow, were given to the Meſſrs. Foulis of that place, and printed by them about ten years ago, accompanied with a recommendation to the tranſlator to purſue the inquiry. A few other pieces of them happened to fall into the hands of a lady of diſtinguiſhed taſte, who ſhewed them, partly in the tranſlation, and partly in the original, to ſeveral judges of poetry in both the languages, who wiſhed to preſerve

perſerve as many as could be got of them from ſinking into oblivion.

"By theſe circumſtances, in a great meaſure accidental, I was induced to beſtow more attention upon collecting as much as I poſſibly could of the ancient Galic poetry. In this taſk, however, I engag'd with very moderate hopes of ſucceſs. The more weſterly part of the Highlands and iſles, the only corner of the field which had not formerly been reaped, did not promiſe any thing of a rich harveſt. Upon examining, however, into the more inland and mountainous part of the country, many pieces were found of no inconſiderable merit, though few of them were either entire or uncorrupted.

"What ſeemed in this caſe the moſt natural expedient, was to collect, from different quarters, as many editions as poſſible, in order to ſupply the defects, or rectify the miſtakes of one by the help of another. This, for ſeveral years, was my object, in which I was happily ſeconded by my ſituation; having reſided for a conſiderable time in various parts of the weſt Highlands, particularly on the eſtates of Argyle and Breadalbane in that county; where a mountainous ſituation, or a

leſs

leſs rigorous exertion of power, afforded ſome ſhelter to the Galic Muſe, after ſhe had been hunted from moſt other places which ſhe had been uſed to frequent.

" It might now be proper, for the ſatisfaction of the public, to mention every perſon who furniſhed a ſingle fragment of theſe poems. Had the expediency of this been earlier attended to, the liſt, though long, ſhould have been given complete; which cannot now be done, by mere recollection, after ten or twelve years have elapſed. The principal contributors, however, can eaſily be enumerated: and though it may be of little conſequence to the public to be preſented with the names of perſons who can be known only to a very few of them, yet in order to ſatisfy them as far as can be expected from a tranſlator, I have ſet down as many of their names below as will, I hope, be reckoned ſufficient*.

" Moſt

* The author gives the names of thirteen perſons, among whom was the Rev. Mr. Mc Diarmid, of Wemyſs, then reſiding in the Iſle of Mull; and ſome pieces from a manuſcript collection, belonging to the Rev. Mr. Mc Diarmid, of Glaſgow; "but, ſays he, I have been in a ſpecial manner obliged to Mr. Kennedy, ſchoolmaſter in Kilmelford, for the uſe of a large collection, which with a view of publiſhing, he had gathered with great induſtry through many parts of the Weſt Highlands and Iſles."

" Moſt of the following poems bear the name of Oſſian; who, for ſome ages back, has engroced the merit of almoſt all the ancient Galic poetry, as he had certainly a title to the beſt of it. Some which bear evidence of their not being his, are remarked as belonging to ſome other poet. Other parts, that ſeemed to me only imitations, I have taken no notice of, as I could not abſolutely venture to reprobate them.

" I have inſerted, occaſionally, as many ſpecimens of the original as I could preſume upon, without fear of incuring the cenſure of the bulk of readers, who may not underſtand their beauty, which often could not be conveyed into an Engliſh tranſlation. But ſhould it be thought, contrary to what I apprehend, that I have given too few, I ſhall willingly take the firſt opportunity that may offer of producing more of them."

OF THE HEBREDIAN SEMINARY OF LEARNING AT ICOLUMKILL.

THE Scots of the fifth century had given an apoſtle to Ireland, whoſe miſſion ſeems to have been very rapid, for in the next century, Ireland furniſhed the Hebride Iſlands with a ſaint of high eſtimation in thoſe days. The Scottiſh apoſtle was the famous St. Patric, a native of Dunbartonſhire, who beſides propagating the chriſtian religion in Ireland, taught the inhabitants the uſe of letters, of which they were, according to Nennius and other hiſtorians, entirely ignorant.

The Iriſh apoſtle was the no leſs celebrated St. Columba, whoſe arrival in Britain is thus deſcribed by Bede, the Saxon hiſtorian. "In "the year of Chriſt, five hundred and ſixty-"five, while Juſtin the leſſer, held the reigns "of the Roman empire, Columba, a preſby-"ter and abbot, whom his manners have "rendered deſervedly famous, came from "Ireland into Britain. His deſign in com-"ing thither, was to preach the word of "God in the Provinces of the northern Picts, "the ſouthern people of that denomination

"having

" having been converted to the faith by Ni-
" nian, a long time before that period. He
" arrived in Britain while Bridius, a very
" powerful prince, reigned over the Picts;
" and the power of the holy man's doctrine,
" and the influence of his example, converted
" that nation to the faith."

If any credit can be given to the ſtories related of Columba, it would ſeem that he left his native country in a fit of reſentment, vowing never to ſettle within ſight of that iſland. He firſt landed on a ſmall iſland of the Hebrides called Oranſay, but finding that iſland too near his hated country, he moved to a little fertile iſland on the weſt coaſt of Mull, called *Hy*, or *Iona*. This iſland is about two miles in length by nearly one in breadth.

On this ſmall ſpot Columba fixed the ſeat of his little ſpiritual empire, and founded an eccleſiaſtical ſeminary, which, for duration and fame, was not exceeded by the moſt celebrated eſtabliſhment in the annals of northern Europe.

Soon after his arrival at Iona, he founded a cell of monks, and was himſelf the firſt abbot. So great was the eſteem in which he

was

was held, that he had the honour of burying in this holy ground, two kings of Scotland, and of crowning a third.

Columba died in the thirty-ſecond year after his arrival at this iſland, where he was buried. His life was written by Adamnanus, his ſucceſſor, a copy of which is ſaid to be in the poſſeſſion of Macdonald of Clanronald, and another in the family of Macniel of Bara.

After his death, the iſland received the name of *Y-columb-cill*, or, the Iſle of the Cell of Columba. It was afterwards perſonified, converted into a ſaint, and worſhipped under the title of St. *Columb-killa*.

It enjoyed tranquility, above two centuries, but in the year 807, the roving tribes of pagan Danes or Norwegians, attacked the clergy with ſavage barbarity, maſſacred ſome of the monks, and forced the remainder with their abbot, to fly for ſafety. The monaſtery remained depopulated ſeven years after this calamitous event. On the retreat of the Danes it received a new order, being that of the *Cluniacs*, who continued there till the diſſolution, when the revenues were united to the biſhopric of Argyle.

Icol-

Icolumkill furniſhed biſhops to ſeveral dioceſſes in England and Scotland; amongſt others, Aidanus, biſhop of Landisfairn, in Northumberland.

In ſucceeding times it became the ſeat of the biſhops of Soder and Man; and it contained beſides the monaſtery, a nunnery and ſeveral chapels.

This place was famous for its library, which contained the archives and hiſtories of the kingdom, with many other manuſcripts that are now diſperſed and loſt.

"The library here muſt have been invaluable, ſays Mr. Pennant, if we can depend upon Boetius, who aſſerts, that *Fergus II.* aſſiſting Alaric the Goth, in the ſacking of Rome, brought away as ſhare of the plunder, a cheſt of books, which he preſented to the monaſtery of Iona.* Aeneas Sylvius (afterwards Pope Pius II.) intended when he was in Scotland to have viſited the library in ſearch of the loſt books of Livy, but was prevented by the death of the king. A ſmall parcel

* If ever any ſuch books were preſented, it muſt have been ſubſequent to Fergus's reign, which was many years before the monaſtery was founded.

parcel of them were, in 1524, brought to Aberdeen, and great pains were taken to unfold them, but through age and the tenderneſs of the parchment, little could be read; but from what the learned were able to make out, the work appeared by the ſtyle to have rather been a fragment of Saluſt than of Livy. But the regiſtor and records of the Iſland, all written on Parchment, and probably other more antique and valuable rémains, were all deſtroyed by that worſe than Gothic Synod, who at the reformation declared war againſt all ſcience."

This place became alſo the Sepulture of forty-eight kings of Scotland, eight of Norway, four of Ireland, beſides the chieftans of the Highland and Hebridian Clans, ſome of whoſe effigies ſtill rémain on the ſpot, many have been deſtroyed, and others have been purloined for other church yards, in the Highlands.

I have ſeen ſome of theſe effigies, and alſo ſome of the ſtone croſſes that have been taken from Icolumkill. One of the latter ſtands in the centre of the town of Campbeltown; a beautiful pillar, ornamented with foliage.

Many

The effigies have been carried moſtly to Argyleſhire, where they are laid over the graves of the principal inhabitants. A number of them may be ſeen at Kilmartin, where the people can give the names of the perſons on whoſe graves they were originally placed.

ANTIQUITY OF THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND SCOTS; AND THE GREAT FIDELITY OF THE LATTER.

IT appears from hiſtory, that Inverlochy was anciently a place of conſiderable note; a reſort of French and Spaniards, probably to purchaſe fiſh, for which it was a kind of emporium, particularly for ſalmon. But the place is ſtill more noted for its being a reſidence of kings, and where the memorable League, offenſive and defenſive, is recorded to have been ſigned between Charlemain and Achaius, King of Scotland, in 791.

The origin of this alliance ſeems to have ariſen, Firſt, from the obſtinate reſiſtance of the Saxons in Germany, aided by their coun-

trymen in South Britain, to the arms of Charlemain, which obliged that great conqueror to recruit his armies with auxiliaries from various parts of Europe, among whom were four thouſand Scots, commanded by Gilmer, brother to Achaius.

This Gilmer, after ſignalizing himſelf againſt the Pagan Saxons, embraced a religious life, and founded ſome monaſteries for his countrymen in Germany, and other places; which fact is fully authenticated by the united teſtimony of the French and Italian hiſtorians of thoſe early times. Theſe monaſteries, as appears from records, were governed ſucceſſively by Abbots and Priors of the Scottiſh nation.

In Paulus Emilius's hiſtory of the French atchievements, we meet with the following very remarkable expreſſions: "The Saxons "being overcome, that their name, by de- "grees, might be extinguiſhed, Charles be- "ſtowed the honours of magiſtracy upon "ſtrangers, but principally upon the Scots, "whom he made uſe of for the great fidelity "he found in them."

"Secondly, Charlemain was deſirous to aggrandize France, by rendering it the ſeat of literature,

literature, as well as of extenſive empire; for this purpoſe, he invited thither the learned from all parts, and particularly certain eccleſiaſtics of Scotland, whom he employed to read philoſophy, in greek and latin, at Paris, and afterwards in founding a univerſity in that metropolis.

"The moſt ancient treaty, ſays biſhop Nicholſon, which is now ſuppoſed to be entirely extant, is that which was concluded between the Emperor Charles the Great and Achaius; whereupon it was allowed, that, in all times coming, the Scottiſh kings ſhould bear their red lion (Fergus the firſt's arms) in a counter-charged border of flowers-de-lis. I have ſeen a noble manuſcript of two hundred and thirty ſheets in folio, of the treaties betwixt the kings of France and Scotland, from the year 791, (wherein the foremen-tioned league was concluded) to 1296. Whereunto are added the privileges granted by ſeveral kings of France to the Scots; fairly written in their original languages. Upon this latter ſubject there is a printed treatiſe which bears the title of Eſcoſſe Françoiſe; which gives the original of the privileges of the Scotch guards in France."

The treaty concluded between theſe cotemporary princes, and the ſervices performed by the Scots, in virtue thereof, ſeems to have laid the foundation of that alliance between France and Scotland, which laſted, with ſome intermiſſions, till the union of the two Britiſh crowns. To this alliance, many of the ſubſequent treaties of reciprocal defence between France and Scotland had a reference.

A ſeaſonable ſupply of troops and ſhips of war, having been ſent by James IV. king of Scotland, to Lewis XII. king of France, then deſtitute of allies and ready to ſink under the arms of England, Germany, and Italy, the French monarch was ſo overcome with gratitude, that he gave orders for ratifying and augmenting the ancient privileges of the Scottiſh nation in France.

The letters of naturalization in favour of that kingdom, give the following reaſons: "Becauſe of the league which had been of "old made and obſerved between the two na- "tions, and in conſideration of the great and "mighty ſervices done by the Scots to the "kings and kingdom of France, eſpecially dur- "ing the reign of Charles VII. when many "princes of Scotland came over to France, and "helped

" helped to expel her enemies, who were then " maſters of the greateſt part of it: For which " ſignal piece of ſervice, and the undaunted " courage diſplayed by the Scots, on all occa- " ſions, that monarch, Charles VII. had ap- " pointed 200 of them to guard his perſon, " of whom 100 were men of arms, and are " now, adds the record, the 100 launces of our " ancient ordinance, and 100 archers, 24 of " whom are called archers of the body.

Secondly, " becauſe of the unſhaken fide- " lity, which, without any variation, or inter- " ruption, has at all times been conſpicuous in " thoſe of that nation; and in the extraordinary " good offices done by the preſent king, who " had ſent both a conſiderable land army, and " a fleet, conſiſting of many good ſhips, to " France, upon which account *his ſubjects* " *ought to befor ever encouraged and favoured* " *above allothers.*"

In the contract of marriage between the Dauphin of France and Mary Queen of Scots, publiſhed among the French treaties of peace and alliance, mention is made of the *ancient leagues between the two kingdoms, begun eight hundred years before that time.*

Theſe privileges related chiefly to commercial affairs, in which the Scots, being the moſt favoured nation, were enabled then to carry on a very extenſive trade with France, till the acceſſion of James VI. to the crown of England, when France withdrew her favours. On this, James, at the earneſt requeſt of his Scottiſh ſubjects, remonſtrated with the court of France, but without effect. The goods and chattels of Scotſmen who died in France were, however, ſtill exempted from being ſeized by that government; a privilege allowed to the Scots and Swiſs only.

REMAINS OF CALEDONIAN ARCHITECTURE.

THERE are ſtill in the Highlands ſome remains of buildings that were erected in very remote ages.

The caſtle of Dunſtaffnage was a ſeat of the kings of the Scottiſh nation, previous to the conqueſt of the Picts in the ninth century. It is built on the ſummit of a rock

that

that riſes ſome yards above the level of the adjacent ground. The ſides of the rock are ſo neatly pared to render it precipitous, that a perſon at a ſmall diſtance cannot diſtinguiſh the rock from the wall which is erected upon it. The baſe is waſhed on one ſide by Loch Etive, and on the land-ſide there is a ſmall declivity.

By means of theſe circumſtances, this ſeat muſt have been proof againſt any machine that could be brought againſt it before the invention of gun-powder.

The caſtle of Rothſay, in the iſland of Bute was originally circular, and is of unknown antiquity. A part of the outer wall ſtill remains, about five or ſix yards in height. It has a venerable appearance, and is moſtly covered with creeping ivy. Within this wall, a building of later times was erected, it is ſuppoſed, by ſome princes of the houſe of Stuart, who reſided here.

In that part of the Highlands, called Lord Rae's Country, there are the ruins of a circular building, which ſeems to have been a ſeat of ſome monarch or great chieftan; but at what period it was erected, and for what purpoſe,

in the heart of a gloomy and almoſt inacceſſible deſart, antiquaries can ſcarcely form a conjecture. It is called Dornadella, probably from the perſon who built it, and as this barren region has in all ages been appropriated to the chace, it may be ſuppoſed that the building ſerved as a ſummer reſidence to the chiefs and their followers, who in that ſeaſon employed themſelves in hunting.

Some conjecture, that it was a druidical temple, an opinion founded upon ſimilar remains of ancient buildings in France, whoſe erection and uſes were attributed to the Druids of that country.

There are many circular buildings, of inferior dimenſions, on the Weſt coaſt of Scotland, and in the Hebride Iſlands, called *Duns*, a Celtic word, which ſignifies a hill or eminence, but whether erected by the Druids or the Norwegians, hiſtory affords no poſitive lights.

Theſe imperfect ſketches of the Caledonian or Galic annals, ſerve to furniſh inconteſtible proofs that the Highlands of Scotland, particularly the Weſtern coaſt, and the Hebride Iſles were inhabited in very remote ages by the Celtes or Gauls from the continent; that they

were

were a numerous, and a war-like people when the Romans firſt erected their ſtandards at the bottom of the Grampian Mountains; that they defended their country and liberties with ſingular bravery, and uncommon perſeverance, till the encroaching enemy abandoned their country, without having made a conqueſt of any part of it.

It is alſo evident, that they were under ſome degree of regular government; faithful and loyal ſubjects to a lineal ſucceſſion of kings; guided in ſpiritual concerns, by prieſts or Druids; and in later times, by the teachers of Chriſtianity, when that religion was unknown in the more northern parts of Europe. It farther appears, that theſe Caledonian Gauls were lovers of poetry and muſic; that they produced a bard, coeval with the Romans, ſufficiently endued by nature for handing down to the lateſt poſterity, their martial atchievments againſt the Roman arms, as well as the aſſiſtance which they were ever ready to give to their friends or brethren in diſtreſs.

Finally,

Finally, that the preſent Highlanders are the lineal, unmixed deſcendants of theſe heroes, poets and bards, who through a long ſucceſſion of ages, have preſerved the Celtic language in its ancient purity; who ſtill retain, in a conſiderable degree, the ſimple manners and cuſtoms of their anceſtors; and who are leſs tinctured with the vices of modern times, than thoſe that beſtow upon them the epithet of *barbarous*.

MODERN DESCRIPTIONS OF THE HIGHLANDS, AND THE HEBRIDE ISLES.

JAMES V. of Scotland was the firſt among the moderns who viſited the ſhores of that country. In the year 1534, he embarked at Leith with five ſhips, attended by ſundry noblemen, upon a voyage to the Orkney and Hebride Iſlands, for the double purpoſe of taking charts of the coaſts, and eſtabliſhing juſtice among the people. A Journal of this voyage was taken by Mr. Lindſay, the maſter of the king's ſhip, and is printed at the end of Father Fournier's Hydrographic,

Paris'

Paris 1667. The chart was completed by the French king's coſmographer in 1583. Mr. Adair, hydrographer of the kingdom of Scotland, drew it anew in 1688.

In 1549, Donald Monro, dean of the iſles, travelled over the Hebrides, whoſe deſcriptions have been copied by Buchannan and others. Buchannan, who was his cotemporary, ſays he was a perſon of good induſtry, as well as great piety and learning

In 1698, Mr. John Adair made a voyage to the Orkney and Hebride Iſlands, of which he publiſhed a Journal.

About the ſame period, Mr. Martin, a doctor of phyſic, made a complete tour through the Hebrides, and his book, entitled a Deſcription of the Weſtern Iſlands of Scotland, was publiſhed in 1703, and dedicated to George prince of Denmark. "Perhaps, "ſays he, in his preface, it is peculiar to "thoſe iſles, that they have never been de- "ſcribed till now by any man that was a na- "tive of the country, or had travelled them. "They were indeed touched by Boethius, "biſhop Leſley, Buchannan, and Johnſton, "in their hiſtories of Scotland, but none of "thoſe authors were ever there in perſon; ſo

"that

" that what they wrote concerning them,
" was upon truſt from others. Buchannan,
" it is true, had his information from Donald
" Monro, who had been in many of them,
" and therefore his account is the beſt that
" has hitherto appeared, but it muſt be own-
" ed that it is very imperfect."

Concerning Mr. Martin, the author of the life of Dr. Samuel Johnſon gives the following account:——" Of this writer, ſays he, little more is known, than that of which himſelf ſeems to be the relator, viz. That he was born in one of the moſt *ſpacious* and *fertile* iſles in the Weſt of Scotland; and, beſides his liberal education at the univerſity, had the advantage of ſeeing foreign places, and converſing with ſome of the royal ſociety; but who, nevertheleſs, ſeems to have been a very weak, credulous, and ſuperſtitious man, and, notwithſtanding his liberal education, with reſpect both to matter and form, an injudicious writer."

There are, however, many facts interſperſed in this book; but a thorough diſcovery and inveſtigation of theſe iſlands with a critical and penetrating eye, was reſerved to the preſent age. Sir Joſeph Banks, after a circum-

cumnavigation round the world, made a voyage to the Hebrides, where he diſcovered one of the greateſt curioſities in nature, an iſland compoſed of baſaltic pillars, far ſurpaſſing thoſe known by the name of the Giant's Cauſeway, which had hitherto been the admiration of mankind.

Sir Joſeph's account of theſe pillars, with their dimenſions, is given in the appendix.

Next in time, was Thomas Pennant, Eſq. of Downing, in Flintſhire. This gentleman poſſeſſed every accompliſhment for the purpoſes of inquiry and communication. A reſpectable fortune, a liberal education, a lover of ſcience and philoſophy in all their branches; a thorough knowledge of hiſtory, and whatever falls under the head of antiquities; much perſeverance, philanthrophy, candour, and good-nature.

Such was the man who ſet out in June 1769,* to make the tour of an almoſt undeſcribed country, for though much had been written upon the geography, natural hiſtory, antiquities, and other particulars of Scotland, a complete ſyſtematical work upon theſe ſubjects, from perſonal obſervation, was

* In conſequence, it is ſaid, of the death of his lady.

was ſtill wanting, till Mr. Pennant undertook the generous deſign, and I may venture to ſay that no country ancient or modern was ever better deſcribed. His writings are a true picture of the country and people; entertaining, inſtructive, and finely embelliſhed with copper-plates, for which purpoſe he was at the expence of taking a perſon with him for making drawings from landſcapes, ruins, plants, &c.

He ſet out by the way of Berwick, and from thence to Edinburgh, Perth, Dunkeld, Taymouth, Blair, Brae-Mar, Aberdeen, Banff, and Inverneſs, to Duncan's-Bay Head, in Caithneſs. He returned by the ſame road to Inverneſs, and from thence ſtruck weſtward along the ſide of Loch Neſs to Fort Auguſtus, and Fort William, in Lochaber. From Fort William, he took a ſouthern direction by Tyndrum, and Dalmally, to Inveraray. From Inveraray, he returned to England, by Loch Lomond, Dunbarton, Glaſgow, Stirling, Edinburgh Moffat, and Carliſle. This journey, with an appendix, makes a quarto volume, and contains twenty-one plates.

In May 1772, he ſet out again, upon a more extraordinary enterpriſe than the former.

The

The chief object of it ſeems to have been a cruiſe among the Hebride Iſlands, the ſtate of which was little known to the generality of Scotſmen, and ſtill leſs to Engliſhmen.

In this tour he went by the Carliſle Road to Dumfries, Lanerk, Glaſgow, and Greenock. Here he hired a decked veſſel for his Hebridean voyage, and viſited the iſlands of Bute, Arran, and the Craig of Ailſa, in the Firth of Clyde: Landed at Campbeltown, and croſſed to the weſt ſide of the Peninſula of Cantire, where the veſſel, after going round that cape, took him again on board. He was now upon the Atlantic, and in ſight of the Hebrides, a part of which he viſited in the following order, viz. Gia, Jura, Ilay Oranſay, Colonſay, Iona or Icolumkill, Canay, Rum, Sky, Liſmore, Scarba, and Eſdale.

All theſe iſlands, and the oppoſite coaſt of the main land, he deſcribes with aſtoniſhing exactneſs, and it is matter of great regret, that he did not viſit more of the Hebrides. The principal iſlands omitted are Mull, Egg, Muck, Coll, Tirey, Bara, South Uiſt, Benbecula, North Uiſt, Harris and Lewis. This, however, could not be done in one ſeaſon, without great hazard from the equinoctial ſtorms, which are tremendous in theſe ſeas.

The

The cruiſe above deſcribed, was performed between June 17 and Auguſt 15, when he landed at Ardmaddie, in Argyleſhire. From thence he viſited Inveraray, and the banks of Loch Awe, at the upper end of which he took an eaſtern direction, following the courſe of the Tay to Killein, at the Head of Loch Tay, and from thence to Taymouth, at the lower end of that lake. From Taymouth to Loggerait, Mouline, Blair, Dunkeld, Perth, the Roman encampments, and other remains in Stratherne, the Carſe of Gowrie, Dundee, Aberbrothic, Montroſe, Dunnotter, Brechin, Forfar, Dunſinane, Abernethy, Falkland, St. Andrews, and from thence along the north ſhore of the Forth to Dumfermline, Alloa and Stirling. From Stirling to Carron, Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Melros, Kelſo, and Northumberland; the whole with an Appendix, making 2 vols. and ornamented with 91 plates.

Though Mr. Pennant has done ſo much, a great part of Scotland ſtill awaits another viſit from one who is ſo eminently qualified for compleating the important work: But, from what I perceived, when I urged this buſineſs, there ſeems to be very little hope that he will ever undertake it, owing, poſ-

ſibly,

ſibly, to a new family connection, which, with literary amuſements, may fully engage his time.

The undeſcribed countries are, Kirkubrightſhire, Wigtownſhire, Airſhire, and moſt of Renfrewſhire, including the Solway Firth, and the eaſt ſide of the Firth of Clyde, the whole forming a line of coaſt exceeding 140 miles in length. Theſe countries lie in the ſouth of Scotland, and contain many remains of antiquity.

On the weſt, he has not ſeen, as before obſerved, above one half of the Hebride Iſles, owing partly to a malignant fever that prevailed in the Long Iſland; and, on the north-weſt, he attempted to penetrate as far as the Pentland Firth, but found it impracticable; conſequently, the weſt and north coaſt of Sutherland, with the greateſt part of Caithneſs, are by him undiſcribed. But inſtead of dwelling upon what he has not done, thoſe who wiſh to have a faithful relation of facts, are under very conſiderable obligations to that gentleman for what he has done, it being undoubtedly one of the beſt books that has been written upon theſe ſubjects, by ancient or modern authors.

Next follows Dr. Johnſon, who honoured even the rudeſt parts of Scotland with a viſit; but, however eminent in ſome reſpects, the Doctor laboured under the incurable misfortune of being the very counter part of the traveller whom he ſucceeded.

He ſet out to make the tour of Scotland and the Hebride Iſlands, at an advanced period of life, and nearly blind. He choſe the autumn, which in that country is generally wet and boiſterous.

He was no antiquarian; and he ſeems to have had very little taſte for botany, and the various branches of natural hiſtory. Combining theſe diſadvantages, the Doctor it may be ſuppoſed, was very ill qualified for exploring, and for deſcribing theſe remote and almoſt unknown diſtricts.

But theſe defects were only ſecondary conſiderations, when compared to his diſpoſition and temper reſpecting that country and people. He ſet out under incurable impreſſions of a national prejudice, a religious prejudice, and a literary jealouſy.

From a writer of ſuch abilities, and ſuch prejudices, the natives of Scotland had rea-

ſon to expect a ſhower of arrows without mercy; and it was poſſibly from this prepoſſeſſion, that they were ready to fall upon him as one man, the moment that his book appeared. Their minds were charged with ſentiments of indignity, reſentment and revenge, which they did not fail to diſcharge upon his head in whole platoons, from every quarter. He ſuſtained the ſhock with firmneſs, and when threatened with corporal chaſtiſement, by an eminent Hiſtorian, he threw down the gantlet, and provided himſelf with a cudgel ſix feet long, and a club at the end of it.*

If, however, we make allowances for the Doctor's bodily and mental infirmities, by

* Among the Doctor's opponents was the author of a Book entitled *Lexiphanes, a dialogue imitated from Lucian, and ſuited to the preſent times. Being an attempt to reſtore the Engliſh Tongue to its ancient purity. And to correct, as well as expoſe, the affected ſtyle, hard words, and abſurd phraſeology of many late writers, and particularly of our* ENGLISH LEXIPHANES *the Rambler.*

Sir John Hawkins attributes this performance to Dr Kenrick. The Author was Archibald Campbell, ſon of profeſſor Campbell of St. Andrews; and by profeſſion, a purſer of a man of war.

He wrote another ſatirical performance, called *the Sale of Authors, in imitation of Lucian's Sale of Philoſophers* which was levelled at the writers then living, who had adopted Dr. Johnſon's ſtyle.

which I mean his dogmatical diſpoſition, and ſtrong prejudices, the obſervations and concluſions upon what he ſaw, may be conſidered as a valuable acquiſition to the hiſtory of North Britain. I have read his book again and again, travelled with him from Berwick to Glenelg, through countries with which I am well acquainted; ſailed with him from Glenelg to Raſay, Sky, Rum, Coll, Mull, and Icolumkill; but have not been able to correct him, in any matter of conſequence. I have often admired the accuracy, the preciſion, and the juſtneſs of what he advances, reſpecting both the country and the people.

Were his book ſtripped of ſome illiberal epithets, and of his lame conjectures reſpecting Galic genius, it would make an excellent ſupplement to the invaluable writings of the traveller who preceded him.

The Doctor and James Boſwell, Eſq. ſet out from Edinburgh on the 18th day of Auguſt, 1773; croſſed the great ferry to Fifeſhire, went along the eaſt coaſt to St. Andrews, Dundee, Aberbrothic, Montroſe, Aberdeen, and Slain's Caſtle. Croſſed the country from thence to Banff on the Murray Firth, and kept due weſt along that coaſt, through Elgin, Forres,

Forres, and Fort George, to Inverneſs. At this place they hired horſes and guides to the weſt ſea, by Lochneſs, Fort Auguſtus, Glenmoriſon, and Glenelg, where they croſſed over to Sky, which, with Raſay, Coll, Mull, and Icolumkill, they examined with conſiderable minuteneſs.

They returned from the Hebrides, by Inveraray, Loch Lomond, Glaſgow and Airſhire, to Edinburgh. The Doctor has every where delivered his ſentiments with freedom, and in many inſtances, with a ſeemingly regard for the beneſit of the inhabitants, and the ornament of the country. His remarks on the want of trees and hedges for ſhade, as well as for ſhelter to the cattle, are well founded, and merit the thanks, not the illiberal cenſures, of the natives. He alſo felt for the diſtreſſes of the Highlanders, and explodes, with great propriety, the bad management of the grounds, and the neglect of timber in the Hebrides.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR EXTENDING THE FISHERIES, AND IMPROVING THE SEA-COASTS OF THE KINGDOM.

AS the year 1786 forms a new æra in the annals of the Highlands, I am under the unavoidable neceſſity of introducing myſelf in the detail, and I hope, that candour will make allowances for the part that I occupy therein, which could not be omitted without leaving a very conſiderable chaſm in the hiſtory of that country. I ſhall abide ſtrictly by facts, as they happened in the order of time, from the year 1764 to the preſent day.

In that year, I firſt went, through motives of curioſity, upon a ſhort excurſion into the Highlands, where the extreme poverty, idleneſs, and diſtreſſes of the people, made an impreſſion which has ever ſince engaged my thoughts, much of my time, and occaſioned an expence of ſeveral thouſand pounds; beſides inconveniencies by ſea and land, which it would be tireſome to enumerate, and painful to read.

I often

I often reaſoned with myſelf on this matter, whether to ſacrifice ſo much time and money, or abandon a cauſe that might one day prove eſſentially beneficial to 300,000 people or upwards, many of whom had nothing more than a bare exiſtence, and even that upon the moſt precarious tenure.

In theſe deliberations, I gave way invariably to the impulſe of my own feelings; the diſcoveries made in one journey, ſerved only to incite new ardour for another; and I have, in the courſe of twenty-three years, penetrated and explored that kingdom ſixteen times; by which I have acquired more general knowledge of the various claſſes of people, the diſtricts, towns, ports, bays, lochs, ſhipping, fiſheries, manufactures, &c. than was ever collected in the breaſt of one individual.

As the Highlands firſt drew my notice, I began to enquire into the moſt effectual means of employing the inhabitants, and of preventing emigration, which at that time prevailed greatly, and of which I was often a witneſs.

This train of thinking became ſtill more agreeable, from the conſideration, that whatever contributed to keep the people at home, and

engage them in habits of uſeful induſtry, would tend alſo to ſtrenghten the navy, and to encreaſe the demand for Britiſh manufactures.

The objects that firſt occurred towards the accompliſhment of theſe deſirable purpoſes, were the fiſheries in all their varieties, and the manufacture of ſundry articles which are uſed in that branch, as ſhip and boat-building, net-making, ſail-making, rope-making. &c.

This led to an acquaintance with fiſhermen of all deſcriptions, as well as merchants and traders in that line, throughout the greateſt part of the kingdom, whom I found ready on every occaſion to give me the fulleſt information, as far as their very imperfect knowledge extended.

The more I conſidered this ſubject, the more important it appeared, both to the ſtrength of the empire, and to the welfare of a great body of people. I therefore reſolved to become maſter of it, though at the expence of a long apprenticeſhip; and I gained, by unremitting inquiries and reading, a knowledge of that buſineſs, ſufficient for aſſiſting fiſhermen themſelves in a profeſſion, of which ſome had only a ſuperficial knowledge, and

others

others were almoſt entirely ignorant, particularly in the manner of curing.

The laſt journey through very remote, and partly unexplored regions, has completed the remaining part of general information. I I have now encircled the kingdom, by traverſing the whole coaſt, with one foot, as it were, on land, and the other in the water. By this I have gained a knowledge of the various ſpecies of fiſh on each reſpective ſhore, and the ſeas thereof, as well as the quantities that might be caught upon an average of years.

When I found myſelf qualified to ſpeak upon the ſubject of fiſheries, and of improvements in the Highlands, I frequently ſpent ſeveral hours in writing whole packets of letters, enforcing the expediency of drawing the public attention that way; but this ſedentary buſineſs engroſſed ſo much time, that printing ſeemed more eligible. Unwilling, however, to be deprived of the ſatisfaction which obſcurity and ſolitude afforded, I circulated ſome papers privately, which, being honoured with particular notice, I ventured, with additions, to publiſh.

The

The favourable reception of theſe firſt ſketches, ſuggeſted the idea of a more complete work, by extending ſome of the ſubjects, and introducing others, the whole giving a ſyſtematic view of the affairs of Scotland in general, and of the Highlands, with its fiſheries, in particular.

Next followed a printed abridgment of the above work, as far as related to fiſheries; this was intended for the particular uſe of ſuch gentlemen as did not chuſe to purchaſe or read two volumes.

As a guide to the public in the geography of the country, I engaged a drawer to give me the outlines of Dorret's map of Scotland, upon a large ſheet: I filled up the names myſelf, and was very attentive to thoſe of the lakes and bays. The map has been found very uſeful, in giving a general idea of the extent of the country, the number and ſituation of the lakes, &c.

Immediately after the publication of my firſt account of the Highlands, I ſet out for Ireland, in order to collect information reſpecting the newly eſtabliſhed fiſheries of that kingdom, and from thence I croſſed over to Cantire. In the mean time, ſundry noble-

noblemen and gentlemen in Scotland, began to form themſelves into a ſociety at Edinburgh, for the purpoſe of facilitating the plans of improvement recommended in the publication, and for other matters worthy of their attention.

The Highland Society at London had been eſtabliſhed ſeveral years before: it was partly a convivial club, who met to enjoy themſelves according to the cuſtoms of their country, to hear the bagpipe, drink whiſky out of the clam-ſhell, &c. and, partly, an inſtitution for the encouragement of collections and publications in their native tongue, and of their native muſic, and ſimilar objects.

Upon my return from Edinburgh, ſoon after the eſtabliſhment of the new ſociety in that city, and of which I had been voted an honorary member, I propoſed that the London Society ſhould extend their plan; do ſomething farther in the way of buſineſs, and cooperate with the Committee of the Houſe of Commons then ſitting upon the fiſheries. I enforced this matter pretty warmly to the ſecretary, and other members. All theſe gentlemen expreſſed their approbation of my propoſals, and their readineſs to come forward,

and

and give their concurrence to any meaſures that might benefit their country, whoſe importance I had laboured to repreſent in the ſtrongeſt terms.

In order to give effect to theſe diſpoſitions, I tranſmitted to the ſecretary and other gentlemen, a long letter, ſtating the urgent neceſſity of opening an inland navigation in the Highlands, and alſo of erecting fiſhing ſtations along the coaſt, upon the plan recommended in the before-mentioned publications, where the natives might ſell their fiſh, and be ſupplied with ſalt, and other neceſſaries, which they greatly wanted.

About this time, the Honourable Chairman, and ſundry gentlemen of the Committee for inquiring into the ſtate of the Britiſh fiſheries, having been formally complimented by the Highland Society, and unanimouſly elected honorary members of that reſpectable aſſociation, an extraordinary meeting was ſoon after called at the Shakeſpeare, and after that a ſecond meeting, where many publick-ſpirited noblemen and gentlemen attended. The two objects which engaged the attention of theſe meetings, were the Crinan Canal (which I had originally propoſed, and

invari-

invariably recommended in preference to one at the Tarbat); and, ſecondly, the erecting of free villages, or fiſhing ſtations. It was propoſed to proceed immediately upon the one or the other of theſe works. Some gentlemen were for beginning with the canal, but the majority ſpoke in favour of the villages for the preſent; and on the 21ſt of March, 1786, I was deſired, by the unanimous voice of the company, to draw up a paper or papers on that ſubject, as *a data or ground work* for the peruſal of the preſent and abſent members of the Highland Society. I readily agreed to this requeſt, and an open committee was nominated to meet on the Tueſday following, to hear the papers read, and to deliberate thereon.

I went to Richmond, and drew up ſeveral ſheets, which were read by the ſecretary to a numerous and reſpectable company, the Earl of Breadalbane in the chair. The thanks of the company were unanimouſly given, and entered in the minute book. A copy of the whole, or a part thereof was voted to be preſented to his Majeſty, by the Earl of Breadalbane, and another copy was to be preſented to the Committee of the Houſe of Com-

Commons then ſitting on the fiſheries. I was alſo deſired to print theſe papers for the peruſal of the members of the Highland Society and other gentlemen who had begun to form themſelves into a new ſociety or inſtitution for the expreſs purpoſe of improving the Highlands. The pamphlet appeared under the title of *A Diſcourſe on the Expediency of eſtabliſhing Fiſhing Stations, or ſmall Towns, in the Highlands of Scotland, and the Hebride Iſles.*

In the mean time, the new aſſociation was beginning to aſſume the form of a regular eſtabliſhment, under the name of *The Britiſh Society for extending the Fiſheries, and improving the Sea Coaſts of the Kingdom.* A bill of incorporation was preparing, " to en- " able them, when incorporated, to ſubſcribe " a joint ſtock, and therewith to purchaſe " lands, and build thereon free towns, vil- " lages, and fiſhing ſtations, in the High- " lands and Iſlands in that part of Great " Britain, called Scotland; and for other " purpoſes." Books of ſubſcription were opened, and on the 23d of May, ſubſcriptions were firſt received at the Shakeſpeare, to the amount of 7000l. or thereabouts.

Seeing

Seeing that the buſineſs was likely to become ſerious, I ſignified my intention to undertake a more extenſive journey in the Highlands and Iſles, than had ever been performed by any individual, in order to get a more perfect knowledge of the face of the country, the condition of the people, the moſt eligible ſituations for villages, with ſuch farther particulars as might be found uſeful to the members of the new ſociety, and particlarly to the directors.

I alſo ſignified my intentions to ſolicit ſubſcriptions to their ſtock wherever I went, and to explain the nature of the buſineſs in the more remote parts of the kingdom. Theſe reſolutions being publickly declared at ſeveral meetings, I was honoured with the following paper, viz.

" At a meeting of the General Com-
" mittee of the Highland Society, held at
" the Shakeſpeare, on Wedneſday the 14th of
" June, 1786, at twelve o'clock, noon, the
" Right Honourable the Earl of Breadalbane
" in the chair:

" Moved, that a requeſt may be made
" to Mr. Knox, that in his intended

tour

" tour to the Highlands, he will take
" the trouble of collecting the names of
" ſuch perſons as are willing to become ſub-
" ſcribers to the fund of the propoſed ſo-
" ciety for extending the fiſheries and im-
" proving the ſea-coaſts of the kingdom; and
" tranſmitting thoſe names to the ſecretary of
" the Highland Society in London. That
" this requeſt may be made to Mr. Knox
" in writing, and that the letter containing
" the requiſition, may expreſs the ſenſe which
" the Highland Society entertains, &c.

" Agreed to accordingly.

" Extracted from the minutes by Geo. Fraſer,
" Clerk to the Society."

JOHN MACKENZIE, *Secretary.*

Thus furniſhed with an official commiſſion, I ſet out from London, June 29, upon the hazardous and fatiguing enterprize. It was to travel, moſtly on foot, from Oban in Argyleſhire, to Cape Wrath, which is the moſt diſtant extremity of Britain, as well as the moſt rugged coaſt; from thence along the ſhore

ſhore of the Pentland Firth to the North-Eaſt extremity at Dungſbay Head; from thence along the Eaſt coaſt of Caithneſs, Sutherland, and Roſsſhire, to Inverneſs; from thence along the coaſt of the Murray Firth to Kinnaird's Head, and from thence back to Edinburgh by Peterhead and Aberdeen.

In this tour I propoſed alſo to explore a greater number of the Hebride iſlands than had been viſited by any late traveller; and all this, which exceeded 3000 miles, was performed in the courſe of ſix months from the time that I left London.

Foreſeeing that theſe journies and cruiſes would be attended with many dangers by ſea, I thought it adviſable to tranſmit occaſionally, to one of the directors of the Britiſh ſociety, the outlines of my obſervations upon the condition of the people, the fiſheries, the natural produce of the country, the moſt eligible ſituations for villages, and other particulars.

On my return homewards, I tranſmitted a ſimilar copy to the ſecretary of the Highland Society at Edinburgh, who laid the ſame before a committee of gentlemen, natives of the Highlands, or who had travelled over a great part of it.

Upon my arrival at Edinburgh, I had the pleaſure to be informed by the ſecretary, that the committee had expreſſed their hearty approbation of theſe endeavours, and particularly of the impartiality they had diſcovered throughout the whole detail. That in conſequence, they ſhould propoſe at the next general meeting, that a gold medal of ten guineas value ſhould be voted, which was unanimouſly agreed to at a very numerous and reſpectable meeting; and this vote, with their thanks, was ordered to be publiſhed.

On my return to London, I was as ſtrongly inclined to publiſh my Journal as I had before been to make the tour; but I was diſcouraged, in ſome meaſure, by the heavy expence of theſe, and former publications, and the length of time occupied in preparing them for the preſs.

As the members of the ſociety, and particularly the directors, were ſolicitous to have the book as ſoon as poſſible, I have completed as far as *Cape Wrath*, which includes the Weſt Highlands, and the Hebride Iſles.

In the ſelection of objects, I have had national utility principally in view, from a hope, that in a very ſhort time, the ſhores and iſlands

iſlands which I had viſited, will become the ſubjects of public attention.

I have claſſed the whole under three principal diviſions:

Firſt, DISSERTATIONS *on the* ANCIENT and MODERN STATE *of the* HIGHLANDS.

Secondly, The JOURNAL.

Thirdly, A large APPENDIX, containing Miſcellaneous Papers.

By means of this methodical arrangement, I have been enabled to bring under one view, and to comprize in a ſmall volume, a very conſiderable number of intereſting ſubjects reſpecting that important, and, till lately, unknown part of Great-Britain.

Being much ſtraitened in time, I was under the neceſſity of ſending the manuſcript to the preſs in its firſt, and conſequently rough ſtate. Some grammatical inaccuracies may therefore have eſcaped my notice, but I believe there are few errors of any conſequence beſides thoſe which are corrected in the *errata*.

To give *a faithful detail of facts* was the chief object of my attention. This I conſidered as an incumbent duty to the public at large, and to that ſociety in particular, who

had placed a more than ordinary degree of confidence in what I formerly related, and whoſe expectations from the preſent publication, are raiſed ſo high as to demand the utmoſt exertion of abilities, which are very inadequate to the magnitude of the undertaking.

In deſcribing the moſt eligible ſtations for villages, I wrote under no influence, felt no prejudices, for or againſt individual proprietors of lands. *Nature, and the accidental or contingent circumſtances of each reſpective place,* were the guides to which I invariably adhered, as far as my knowledge extended.

I mean to obſerve the ſame rigid regard to impartiality in relating the ſubſequent part of the Journey along the northern and north eaſt coaſts of Scotland, which, being an almoſt undeſcribed country, requires the greateſt accuracy in the narrative. This, I propoſe to publiſh in the courſe of the enſuing ſpring, with ſuch farther information as I ſhall be able to collect before that time.

The act of corporation paſſed in July 1786; and, on the 10th day of Auguſt, a governor, deputy-governor, thirteen directors, five auditors, and a ſecretary were choſen.

The

The directors firſt met in January 1787, when they addreſſed a letter to all proprietors of lands on the coaſts of the Highlands and the Hebride Iſlands, deſiring to be furniſhed with the ſpecific terms on which they ſhould be willing to transfer ſuch portions of ground as the ſociety might find eligible for the purpoſe of building; with other queſtions relative to the ſubject of improving the country, and the fiſheries.

In conſequence of theſe letters, the directors have received various propoſals from landed proprietors, and they mean to begin their operations with all convenient ſpeed. They meet weekly, ſometimes oftener, when all letters and papers addreſſed to the board upon theſe ſubjects, or to any member thereof, are read by the ſecretary.

Having thus given the firſt hiſtorical outlines of this new and very ſingular eſtabliſhment, the following ſpecific addreſs *to the* PROPRIETORS *of lands on the coaſts of the Highlands—to the* BRITISH SOCIETY—and *to the* LEGISLATURE, *or the* PUBLIC *at large*, may be found uſeful in the operation and progreſs of that national buſineſs.

ADDRESS TO THE PROPRIETORS OF LANDS ON THE COASTS OF THE HIGHLANDS.

IT ſcarcely needs to be obſerved, that wherever a free market town is eſtabliſhed, the value of lands will riſe proportionally to the increaſe of ſuch town; conſequently, it will be the intereſt of every proprietor to meet the Britiſh ſociety half way, either by a free gift of a certain portion of ground, by a ſmall quit-rent, proportioned to the value of the land; or at a moderate price, if the ſociety ſhould be inclined to make a purchaſe.

In this buſineſs it will be fair to draw the line between the proprietor of a large diſtrict, and he who poſſeſſes only a ſmall tract in the vicinity of any propoſed town. The benefits to the former will be great, to the latter they will be proportionally leſs. It is therefore expected by the public, that every proprietor who is capable of looking forward, will take his ſtand in this great work of national improvement, and act a part ſuitably to the circumſtances of his ſituation. By thus blending private benefit, with the general good, the names of ſuch proprietors who ſhall, with a liberal hand, come forward, and

at

at an early period, will be engraved upon every Highland rock, and be recorded with applauſes to the end of time.

But ſomething farther remains on the part of the gentlemen of the Highlands, towards the ſucceſs of the various branches which conſtitute this great deſign. The ſervitude required by proprietors, tackſmen, and ſome factors, amounts, according to ancient uſage, to forty-two days every year, and theſe the moſt favourable for ploughing, ſowing, digging peats, leading them home, cutting down and leading home the grain.

While the poor men and their families are thus employed upon the buſineſs of their ſuperiors, and for which they receive neither money nor proviſions, their own affairs lie neglected, and their little crops rot upon the ground; yet the rent muſt be paid, or they muſt turn out, to make room for others.

This cuſtom had its riſe in the feudal ages, when every chieftan was ſole maſter of the people who lived upon his lands, and could command their labour in the ſame manner as Weſt India Planters command the labour of their ſlaves.

Wherever this cuſtom prevails, it will be in vain to expect any material change in the face of the country, or the condition of the inhabitants. Servitude is wearing out, however, in the Weſt Highlands; but it remains in force through Caithneſs, and ſome other parts of the North.

Another cauſe of the low ſtate of agriculture in the Highlands, the nakedneſs of the country, the meanneſs of the dwellings, and the extreme poverty of the people, is the ſhortneſs of the tenure on which they generally hold their farms. Some eſtates are let from year to year only; others for three, five, or nine years.

The bad policy of this meaſure is ſo obvious, that it would be waſting time to dwell upon ſuch a painful ſubject. But this is not all; the people who have the misfortune to live upon ſome eſtates, are obliged to advance, upon every renewal of a leaſe, a ſum of money called a *graſſom*, proportioned to the duration of ſuch leaſe; and he who has no money for this purpoſe, muſt either ſell part of his little ſtock to raiſe it, or quit the farm and go about his buſineſs. This cuſtom is not, however, very general in the Highlands, neither is it peculiar to that country only.

But

But none of the circumſtances abovementioned have proved ſo unfavourable to population, as the newly deviſed cuſtom of ejecting fifty or a hundred families at a time, to make room for a ſtock of ſheep, which can be managed by one family, and in ſome places, by a ſervant or herd only. This practice, with the religious commotions of the laſt century, nearly depopulated the South of Scotland, from whence it is ſaid, 7,000 families tranſported themſelves to the North of Ireland, America, and other parts.

The ſame cauſes have lately produced the ſame effects, in the Highlands, of which there is an example as late as the month of June, 1786, when 550 perſons embarked in one ſhip for America, of whom 500 were from one eſtate only. A gentleman who happened to be preſent at the embarkation, declared, that the parting ſcene between the emigrants and their friends who remained behind, was too moving for human nature to behold.

I have ſince that time been informed, that theſe people, when on their paſſage, drew up a narrative ſtating the cauſes of their emigration, in anſwer to ſome reports that had been propagated againſt them. That they put this paper

paper into the hands of the captain, or ſome other perſon who was to return to Britain, praying that their caſe might be inſerted in the newſpapers. As nothing has yet appeared in any paper, it would ſeem that the perſon had not been worthy of the confidence which 550 helpleſs people of both ſexes, and of all ages, had repoſed in him.

It is difficult to aſcertain with exactneſs, what number of people have emigrated, from this and other cauſes, ſince the year 1763. Some raiſe their eſtimates as high as 50,000; but certain it is, that above 30,000 have in that time gone to America, beſides a continual drain to other parts.

It is in the power of the proprietors to mitigate, but not wholly to remove the diſtreſſing circumſtances of the people under them. They may aboliſh ſervitude, and the cuſtom of receiving entry money. They may extend the period of leaſes, and beſtow particular marks of favour to the induſtrious; but they muſt be more than human to reſiſt, invariably, the tempting offers that are conſtantly made by ſheep farmers.

The climate of the Highlands is peculiarly unfavourable to agriculture. The weſt coaſt, and

and the Hebride Iſlands, are generally deluged with rains in the harveſt ſeaſon. The glens and ſtraths of the interior parts enjoy little ſun, and before vegetation is brought to maturity, the weather breaks, the mountains pour down torrents of water upon the lower grounds, and heavy rains are ſucceeded by ſleet and ſnow, which keep poſſeſſion of the heights till the April ſun comes round, when the wretched farmer, renews his fruitleſs toils of the field.

Under ſuch a climate, the beſt years are bad. Every third year upon an average, is a year of famine; and it ſometimes happens, as in 1782, that the potatoes are froſt-bitten as early as October, before the growth has ceaſed. In all theſe years of famine, as they are called, the people, inſtead of being able to pay any rent, muſt be ſupplied by the laird, his factor, or ſome trader, with the actual means of exiſtence, till the grounds yield better crops.

When one bad crop is ſucceeded by another bad crop, as in the years 1782 and 3, the proprietor muſt either purchaſe grain from diſtant parts to ſupport his tenants, turn them

them out of doors, or ſee them periſh by ſlow degrees, through want.

From theſe defects of climate, the people are ever in debt to the proprietors, or to the traders where they reſide, and ſometimes to both. Even in the comparatively fertile county of Caithneſs, the tenantry have not yet been able to pay for the grain or meal furniſhed them in thoſe years, by the gentlemen whoſe lands they occupy. I have been informed from the beſt authority, that the arrears upon one eſtate in that county, exceed four thouſand pounds.

Under theſe circumſtances, it need be no matter of ſurpriſe, if gentlemen ſhould embrace the tempting offers from ſheep farmers. One man will occupy the land that ſtarved fifty or more families; he gives a double or treble rent, and is punctual to the day of payment; conſequently numbers of ejected poor people, are continually on the wing for America.

To the plan of the Britiſh ſociety, and to that only, we are to look for an effectual remedy againſt this evil.

It propoſes to lay the foundation of ſmall market towns, where the people may ſupply themſelves with grain, meal, ſalt, fiſhing

fiſhing materials, and other neceſſaries: where they may ſell the produce of the earth and the ſea, for *ready money*, and at a fair price; and finally, where all ſuperfluous hands may find employment in fiſhing, ſpinning, and ſmall branches of manufacture.

Conſequently the tenantry, inſtead of being a burden to the proprietors, will be able to give better rents, and to pay in a reaſonable time, to the mutual advantage of both parties; and the extraordinary inducement to depopulation, by means of ſheep farms, will ceaſe.

This leads to the propoſition with which I ſet out, That *it will be good policy* in the gentlemen of the Highlands, to treat with the Britiſh ſociety *on the moſt liberal terms*, otherwiſe their eſtates muſt remain in *ſtatu quo*, or be gradually deſolated.

ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR EXTENDING THE FISHERIES.

THE next great object relates to the operations of the Britiſh ſociety, eſpecially at the firſt ſetting out, which may be conſidered as the main ſpring that will give the turn or caſt to all their ſubſequent proceedings, and to the ſucceſs of the buſineſs.

Many ſchemes have appeared in print, others have been tranſmitted to the directors, and more may be expected. The greateſt part of thoſe that have already appeared are, however, ſo inconſiſtent with each other, in the plans which they reſpectively ſtate as the beſt, and the moſt effectual meaſures to be purſued, that inſtead of aiding, they muſt tend to lead the ſociety into a labyrinth of doubts and uncertainty.

To anſwer all theſe papers ſpecifically, would occupy a whole volume, and prove tireſome in the peruſal; I ſhall, therefore, only take up ſome of the moſt general and important heads, as,

1. The meaſures to be purſued in erecting villages.

2. The beſt means of encouraging mechanics and fiſhermen to purchaſe the houſes that

that may be built by the ſociety at the firſt ſetting out, as well as to build houſes at their own riſk and expence.

3. The moſt effectual means of encouraging the fiſheries among the inhabitants of the towns, and the adjacent ſhores.

For the aſſiſtance of the uninformed reader, I ſhall previouſly tranſcribe the geographical part of the diſcourſe, which I had the honour to draw up as a data to the noblemen and gentlemen when they firſt met upon the ſubject of improving the Highlands.

Deſcription of the Maritime Parts of the Highlands, and of the Hebride Iſles.

The Highlands conſiſt of two principal diviſions:

Firſt, the nothern part of Scotland; and,

Secondly, the Hebride Iſlands.

The coaſt of the main-land ſtretches on the Weſt ſide, from a promontory called the Mull of Cantire, facing Ireland on the South, to Cape Wrath, facing the great Northern Ocean.

The Mull of Cantire lies in North lat. 55, 23; and Cape Wrath in 58, 43: the whole forming a coaſt of two hundred and thirty

Engliſh

Engliſh miles, in a ſtraight line: but were the windings of the head-lands included, the coaſt would greatly exceed three hundred miles. This is called the Weſt Coaſt of the Highlands, and is waſhed by the Atlantic, between which coaſt and North America there is no land, excepting the Hebride Iſlands.

After paſſing round Cape Wrath, we enter upon the northern extremity of Great Britain, which lies nearly in a ſtraight line from Cape Wrath on the Weſt, to Dungſbay-Head on the Eaſt, and forms a coaſt of ſeventy miles, uſually called the Pentland Firth. There is no land between this coaſt and Greenland, excepting the Orkney Iſlands,

At the diſtance of	6 miles
The Shetland Iſlands, ...	100 ditto
The Ferro Iſlands, ...	150 ditto
And Iceland, ...	400 ditto

The two firſt mentioned belong to Great Britain; the two laſt to the Crown of Denmark.

Leaving Dungſbay-Head, we enter upon the Eaſt Coaſt of the Highlands, which ſtretches ninety miles due South to Inverneſs, at the head of the Murray Firth. But as the moſt ſouthern part of this diſtrict is accommodated with towns and materials for

fiſheries,

fiſheries, we ſhall limit the eſtimate to that part of the coaſt which lies between Dungſbay-Head and the ſmall ruinous town of Dornoch, containing a line of ſeventy miles. This coaſt is waſhed by the German Sea, and faces the South part of Norway, from which it is diſtant three hundred miles.

The total number of miles between the Mull of Cantire and the Firth of Dornoch, excluſively of head-lands, bays, and lakes, is as follows: viz.

The Weſt coaſt between the Mull of Cantire, and Cape Wrath, ...	230
The North coaſt, between Cape Wrath and Dungſbay-Head, ...	70
The Eaſt coaſt, between Dungſbay-Head and the Firth of Dornoch, ...	70
	370
For the ſake of even numbers we ſhall add, on account of head-lands, only	30
Almoſt townleſs coaſt, on the main-land, ...	400

We now come to the ſecond diviſion of the Highlands, which is compoſed entirely of iſlands, called the Hebrides, amounting to

about three hundred; of which forty* are inhabited. It would be difficult to aſcertain the circumference of this numerous cluſter of iſlands, or even of all thoſe that are inhabited. We ſhall, therefore, only ſtate the dimenſions of the moſt conſiderable, from which may be formed an imperfect conjecture of the aggregate line of the whole.

1. The *Long Iſland* forms a chain of nearly one hundred and forty miles in length, and, in general, from ſix to ten miles in width: in one place it is thirty-two miles acroſs.

This chain is principally compoſed of five iſlands, lying South and North, and ſeparated from each other at high-water by four narrow channels, through ſome of which fiſhing-veſſels may paſs from Eaſt to Weſt, between the inner channel and the main ocean.

2. *Sky* is fifty-four miles in length, and fifteen in width, at a medium.

3. *Mull* is twenty miles in length, and fifteen in width at a medium.

4. *Ilay.*

* I have ſince diſcovered nearly one hundred inhabited iſlands, the names of which are inſerted in page 24 and 25 of the Journal.

4. *Ilay* is about half the dimenſions of Mull.

5. *Jura* is nearly the ſize of the former.

6. *Tirey* and *Coll*, ſeparated from each other by a narrow channel, are above twenty miles in length, and three, at a medium, in width.

The main cicumference of theſe iſlands may be ſtated at ſix hundred miles, of probably the beſt fiſhing ſhores in Europe, of the ſame extent.

The attention of the public may therefore be directed to

	Miles.		People.
The coaſt of the main-land, from the Mull of Cantire to the Firth of Dornoch	400	Inhabited by	150,000
And to the Hebride Iſles	600	.....	50,000
	1000		200,000

Number of Towns which it would be expedient to erect on the above-mentioned ſhores: plan of thoſe towns, and the expence of the houſes.

BETWEEN the Mull of Cantire and the Firth of Dornoch, there are, upon the coaſt of the main-land and the iſlands, above two hundred lakes, bays, and openings, many of

of which are fiſhing grounds, and where ſhips may ſafely ride.

To put theſe extenſive and valuable ſhores, in a ſituation for proſecuting the fiſheries effectually, and at all ſeaſons of the year, FORTY fiſhing ſtations, or ſmall towns, will be neceſſary, *in the firſt inſtance*; being only one ſtation for every twenty-five miles,* on a coaſt of one thouſand miles, and for every five thouſand people, who reſide on that coaſt, beſides thoſe who inhabit the interior country, the younger part of whom would ſoon become regular fiſhers.

For facilitating the growth of towns, accommodating the great body of the people with materials for the fiſheries, and inſtructing others in the mechanical arts, a houſe will be required for each of the following profeſſions, viz.—A ſhip carpenter, or boat-builder, cooper, net-maker, tanner, black-ſmith, maſon, houſe-carpenter, weaver, taylor, ſhoemaker, butcher, and tallow-chandler.

Alſo

* By this is to be underſtood, that a town ſhould be placed wherever nature and other favourable circumſtances point out an eligible ſtation, without obſerving a ſtrict regard to diſtances between one town and another.

Alſo for a general dealer in meal, grain, fiſhing materials and ſtores, ſalt, timber, ſtaves, hoops, pitch, tar, oil, and a great variety of other articles, which the fiſhers and the country people have at preſent no means of procuring, upon eaſy terms, or when immediately wanted.

A public houſe or ſmall inn, accommodated with beds for the conveniency of ſtrangers who may come thither to buy and ſell, will be particularly neceſſary; and we hope, likewiſe, that a houſe will be deemed requiſite for a ſchool-maſter, and for an apothecary or ſurgeon.

The whole number will compriſe ſixteen houſes, which, excepting thoſe for the trader and inn-keeper, may be built upon one ſcale or plan of architecture, with ſtone, lime, and ſlate; each houſe having two apartments on the ground, with ſtone-flooring; and two apartments above. The houſes for the trader and inn-keeper ſhould be more capacious, and accommodated with back-rooms for holding bulky articles. But, upon the whole, theſe ſixteen buildings may be raiſed, in a country where materials (timber excepted) are plentiful, and where wages are comparatively low, at 80l. each or 1,280l. for the whole.

As all, or moſt of the lakes and bays in the Highlands are more or leſs the receptacles of white-fiſh, ſhell-fiſh, ſalmon, mackarel, and occaſionally viſited by the migrating ſhoals of herrings, there ought to be a number of ſtationary, practical fiſhers in each town, at its firſt eſtabliſhment, for whoſe accommodation twenty ſmall houſes may be built, with two apartments on the ground, at about 25l. each: in all 500l.

GENERAL ACCOUNT, VIZ.

Sixteen dwelling-houſes to each town	£. 80	1280
Twenty ..... do. ..... do.	25	500
A public well, paving, and other incidental expences		220
Expenditure on each town of 36 Houſes		2000
Number of towns		40
Total expence for building 40 towns, containing 640 houſes, at 80l. each; and 800 do. at 25l. in all 1440 houſes		£. 80,000

The above is the ſum which it will be neceſſary to raiſe by individual ſubſcription, not upon ſpeculative ideas of a plan of great emolument to thoſe who advance the money, but merely to build a number of commodious dwellings on the beſt fiſhing grounds, for a people, who, though they cannot immediately

ly erect houſes at their own expence, may, with a moderate degree of ſucceſs in their reſpective profeſſions, be able in a few years, to pay a ſmall yearly rent, by which the ſubſcribers may receive from three to four per cent. upon an average of years, till the houſes ſhall be ſold, and the principal repaid.

In a country which cannot raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies of grain for its inhabitants, who frequently experience a temporary ſcarcity, it would be expedient to accommodate each houſe, having four apartments, with an acre of land adjoining to the ſame; and the ſmall houſes with half an acre each, whereon to raiſe vegetables and potatoes; which, with fiſh at their doors, would form a principal part of their ſubſiſtence through the whole year.

In treating with the reſpective proprietors of the ſoil, it would be neceſſary to look forward to the growth of the towns, and to procure, at once, ſufficient ground not only for the ſite of houſes, but alſo for a ſmall garden to each houſe which ſhall be erected by individuals during the infancy of each townſhip.

The progreſs of theſe towns will depend greatly on the liberality of the preſent ground

proprietors; who, if they co-operate with the good diſpoſitions of the Public, if they wiſh to improve their eſtates, to have their rents well paid, and to ſee their country flouriſh, will readily treat with the directors for a piece of ground, not under fifty Scots acres for each townſhip, to become from thence forward the unalienable royalty of ſuch towns, ſubject only to the prince on the throne; the laws of their country; and the regulations of their own magiſtracy.

The growth of theſe towns will alſo depend much on the aid that government ſhall give towards the building of cuſtom-houſes, quays, and other works: which fall properly on the public at large. The concurrence of government in this reſpect will operate as the main-ſpring of the whole buſineſs. It will diſpoſe the proprietors of lands to treat for the alienation of the ſame on the moſt liberal terms; it will facilitate the ſubſcription for erecting the private dwellings; and finally, it will draw to theſe places a concourſe of people, traffic, and ſhipping.

From theſe outlines of the plan, it appears, that the mutual concurrence and hearty ſupport of the ſeveral deſcriptions of men before mentioned

tioned are abſolutely neceſſary in laying the foundation of towns, which may, one day, prove as walls of braſs for the defence of this highly-favoured and juſtly celebrated iſland.

Soon after the above appeared in print, I ſet out upon my northern tour, and as the plan was immediately communicated to the public through the channel of newſpapers, and other publications, I had an opportunity of hearing the ſentiments of all degrees of people upon that ſubject.

It may be ſuppoſed that the generality of men gave their opinion for or againſt the plan, agreeably to the benefit or diſadvantage, which, in their apprehenſion, would be the conſequence to themſelves, or to the country where they reſpectively reſided, were it carried into execution. Accordingly, the inhabitants of the Highlands were warmed to a degree of enthuſiaſm, for the ſpeedy execution of the deſign; while ſome perſons in other parts, ſpoke of it with coolneſs, and ſeemed to ridicule the idea of drawing the attention of the public to the quarter propoſed. Becauſe the country was naturally barren, and the people lived in the greateſt poverty,

verty, they were to be abandoned to their fate.

" It is not, ſaid ſome reſpectable perſons, " the practice of nations to build towns on " the frontiers." The reaſon is plain, becauſe ſuch towns are moſt expoſed to the enemy's bombardments. But the ſhores of the Highlands of Scotland are far removed from enemies. The fleets and armies which aſſail theſe coaſts, are mighty ſhoals of herrings, mackarel, cod, ling, haddocks, and other varieties of fiſh, who come annually to feed and enrich the inhabitants; but which, from the want of towns to receive them, are ſnatched away by ſtrangers.

By far the greateſt number of people approved, however, of any plan that would alleviate the diſtreſſes of the Highlanders, extend their fiſheries, and ſtrengthen the Britiſh navy. With theſe views, many ſubſcribed to the fund then raiſing, and others only required ſome farther time to conſider of the part they ſhould take. " It is not, " ſaid they, the deſign itſelf, but our fears " reſpecting the execution of that deſign, " which keep us in ſuſpence. We have ſeen, " and we have heard of great miſmanage-

" ment

" ment in the expenditure of public and " private money, and we wiſh to ſee in " what manner this buſineſs is likely to " be conducted, before we embark in it."

This reaſoning was fair and equitable. The miſtruſt which it implied, was founded upon by-paſt experience, and I hope that the Britiſh ſociety will wiſely avail themſelves of the hints that have been given them.

Having, ſince the before mentioned plan was drawn up, ſurrounded the whole northern part of the iſland; having examined every diſtrict, bay, and lake, with as much minuteneſs as my limited time, and the inclemency of the weather permitted, I am enabled, by means of theſe new lights, to judge of the plan with a greater degree of certainty. I have applied it to the preſent ſtate of all the different parts of theſe extenſive ſhores, and to the various ſituations of people, by whom they are inhabited; but, inſtead of becoming a convert to any of the ſchemes which I have ſeen, or heard of, I am more confirmed in the opinion, that the original propoſal is the beſt adaped to the circumſtances of the Highlands, its people, and fiſheries. I am fully convinced, that if the Britiſh ſociety ſhall

act

act judiciouſly, and if the contractors for executing the buſineſs ſhall act faithfully, the plan which I firſt recommended, will, with ſome improvements, fully anſwer the great ends propoſed by it.

Fifty acres is there mentioned as the loweſt quantity of ground that will be wanted; but, where there is a ſufficiency of arable or improveable land, it would be expedient to procure ſome hundred acres, and this upon the moſt eaſy terms.

In ſome of the towns, a range of houſes might be built for the various branches of the herring buſineſs, as gutting, packing, and repacking; and, in other towns, for curing white fiſh. In ſome ſtations, houſes will be wanted for both of theſe purpoſes, alſo for lodging boats, ſalt, and coals. —— The upper apartments would hold caſks, ſtaves, hoops, nets, ſails cordage, nails, and other articles. Some rooms might be fitted up with beds for working people. But it is to be feared that theſe buildings would require more money than the ſociety can well ſpare at the firſt ſetting out. If this ſhould happen to be the caſe, it would be neceſſary to *extend* the buildings deſigned for the cooper, ſhip-builder, and the ſtore-keeper.

Some

Some gentlemen are of opinion, that inſtead of building houſes for traders, mechanics, and fiſhermen, the ſociety ſhould leave that buſineſs to the people themſelves.

Were this plan adopted in the firſt inſtance, no perſon would attempt to build, who had any property to loſe. Some deſperate people, who have no certain place of reſidence, or who expect every day to be turned out of their habitations, would be glad to get a ſpot which they could call their own, where they could be ſecured in the poſſeſſion upon certain eaſy conditions, and be out of the clutches of ſtewards or factors. But theſe are not the men to form a reſpectable thriving village, to extend the fiſheries, to carry the ſame to the various markets at home and abroad, to introduce the building of decked veſſels, to purchaſe the produce of the country, and finally, to ſupply the inhabitants with neceſſaries for the ſupport of life, as well as for the purpoſes of agriculture and fiſhing.

Upon this plan, the beſt ſituations around the fineſt harbours, would be occupied by a group of mean huts or cottages, the feeble efforts of indigence and ignorance, from which no valuable purpoſe could poſſibly ariſe

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in any caſe whatever, and all the hopes of the ſociety, and of the public, would end in impotence and deriſion.

Very different are the meaſures for raiſing fiſhing ſettlements in the flouriſhing province of Nova Scotia. Here, ſince the late peace, a number of towns have been raiſed upon a regular plan; the ſtreets croſs each other at right angles; they are from fifty to ſixty feet in breadth; many of the houſes have ſixty feet in front by 120 in depth; and the ſtore-houſes, docks, wharfs, &c. are all completely and effectually executed.

The reader will be ſurprized when he finds, from very credible authority* that the following places have been raiſed to conſiderable magnitude, within the ſpace of four years only, viz.

St. Andrews, conſiſting of 600 houſes, and 3000 people.

Beaver Harbour, containing 800 people.

St. John's River, containing about 2000 houſes, with 10,000 inhabitants; and is already poſſeſſed of ſixty ſail of veſſels, ſome of which

* An account of the preſent ſtate of Nova Scotia, publiſhed at London and Edinburgh in 1786.

which are employed in carrying on trade with the Weſt Indies, and the reſt in the whale and cod fiſheries. Various other ſettlements upon the ſame river, contain 4000 people.

Annapolis Royal, which has lately increaſed to ſix times its former dimenſions.

The Town of *Shelburn*, built upon the harbour of Port Roſeway, where the inhabitants, which, before the war, did not exceed fifty perſons, have increaſed to thirty thouſand, beſides fourteen hundred negroes The good effects of their being poſſeſſed of a large capital, ſhews itſelf very plainly in the great number of ſhipping belonging to the merchants, nearly equalling that of Halifax itſelf, being at leaſt three hundred ſail of all ſorts, ſeveral of which are employed in the whale fiſhery, a ſtill greater number to the Weſt Indies, and the reſt in the cod fiſhery upon the coaſt of Province. At this place four hundred veſſels have been built ſince the evacuation of New York, of which ſeventy were on the ſtocks at one time.

Liverpool, containing twelve hundred inhabitants.

Lunenburgh, whoſe inhabitants have increaſed from three to nine thouſand.

HA-

HALIFAX, whoſe inhabitants have been more than doubled during the laſt ten years.

Before the late war, ſcarcely five hundred men were employed in the cod fiſhery from Nova Scotia; but at preſent, the number employed in the various ſtages of that branch is little ſhort of ten thouſand; a ſure proof of the height to which the white fiſhery may be carried upon the northern ſhores of Scotland, and the increaſe of population therefrom.

Though this rapid increaſe of people, towns, ſhipping, and fiſheries, is in a great meaſure owing to the number of refugees who have carried their capitals, their induſtry, and their experience to Nova Scotia, it muſt at the ſame time be allowed, that their ſucceſs depended much upon the judicious meaſures which they adopted in forming the new towns, and increaſing the old ones.

It is admitted, that the ſcale upon which theſe people carried on their works, is far too extenſive to be copied upon the ſhores of the Highlands of Scotland; but, at the ſame time, a medium line may be adopted, between magnificent erections, and pitiful ſmoaky hovels, poſſeſſed by a ſet of beggars, who inſtead

inſtead of anſwering the purpoſes of the Britiſh Society, would become a dead weight upon them, and require daily ſupport.

Every village ſhould be ſo conſtituted, as to give force and efficacy to all the branches of provincial improvement propoſed by the Society; to accompliſh which, it muſt have the means within itſelf. It ſhould be inhabited in its origin by ſome men of property, knowledge, induſtry, and perſeverance; with a proportionable number of practical fiſhers, whoſe wives and children would alſo find employment in ſpinning hemp, knitting nets, gutting and cleaning the fiſh, extracting oil, and the buſineſs of their families.

In this gradation of ranks, every inhabitant of the village would take his ſtation, and act his part in that line of life for which he was beſt qualified; and thus the beneficial influences of a well regulated village would be diffuſed every where around, to the diſtance of ſeveral miles; while the inhabitants, by means of increaſing buſineſs or trafic, would begin to erect houſes for the accommodation of new ſettlers, and by this ſlow but ſure progreſs, the village would riſe to a town, and be able to go on of itſelf, without any further aid from the Society.

To this place the farmer would reſort with his cattle, calves, ſheep, goats, ſkins, poultry, eggs, butter, cheeſe, milk, honey, potatoes, vegetables, coarſe linens and woollens, linen and wollen yarn, hemp, flax, turf, &c. and would carry back grain or meal, ſalt, freſh and ſalted fiſh, medicines, ſoap, candles, leather, ſacking, implements of huſbandry, cutlery, and ſuch other articles as occaſional wants might require.

It would alſo give riſe to many ſmall fiſhing villages in its vicinity, to whom it would be the metropolis, aſſiſting, and being aſſiſted, to their mutual advantage. Thither the robuſt fiſhermen ſtationed along the creeks of the coaſt, would carry their herrings, mackerel, cod, ling, haddocks, whitings, flat-fiſh, ſhell-fiſh, and oil, where they would find a ready market from the traders, for ſuch fiſh as were in proper condition, if freſh, or well cured and ſalted. From whence they would take back materials for boat-building and repairs; hemp or cordage, nets, ſails, anchors, caſks, ſalt, hooks, lines, ſpirits, meal, ſoap, candles, boots, leather, &c.

The

The traders in the principal towns would build coaſting veſſels, eſtabliſh a diſtant correſpondence, export their fiſh, oil, ſalt beef, ſkins, butter, honey, potatoes, kelp, timber, bark, charcoal, lead, ſlates, and feathers. Of the fiſh, oil, potatoes, timber, bark, and charcoal, the quantity could be increaſed to any extent.

It may appear an extraordinary aſſertion to affirm that the productions of the Highlands of Scotland, with the Iſlands, may be rendered equal in value to all the fiſh, the oil, the furs, the timber, and the lumber of the flouriſhing and extenſive colony of Nova Scotia; but this ſeeming impoſſibility will vaniſh in proportion as the Highlands ſhall be brought forward into view.

The cod fiſheries of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, can only be proſecuted in the ſummer ſeaſon, when that fiſh is in its worſt condition. Thoſe in the Highland ſeas can be proſecuted at all ſeaſons, were the natives provided with decked veſſels inſtead of ſmall boats. From theſe ſhores, therefore, the Britiſh, Iriſh, Spaniſh, and Italian Markets, might be well ſupplied through the winter and ſpring with fiſh caught in the proper ſeaſon.

This repreſentation evidently points out the propriety of ſuch liberal plans as will afford an ample field of action for the exertions of the induſtrious, in every ſituation and department.

If theſe arguments required any auxiliary aids; it might be proper to mention the great difficulty, if not impoſſibility, of raiſing a decent village by individuals only. When a houſe is to be built in that country, the workmen, and the materials of timber and iron, muſt be brought from Glaſgow, Greenock, Aberdeen, or Inverneſs. The people muſt be paid high wages to induce them to go thither; beſides the expences of their journey to and from the Highlands, which fall upon the perſon by whom they are engaged.

The ſlate muſt alſo be brought from a diſtance, and, in ſome places, the lime. It is owing to theſe inconveniencies and extraordinary expences, that ſo few decent houſes have been raiſed in the Highlands by men of property, and that difficulty is faſt increaſing.

Till within theſe few years, the common wages to maſons and houſe carpenters were ſix-ſhillings per week; but ſuch is the ſpirit of building at Edinburgh, and the principal towns

towns of Scotland, that the wages have been raiſed to from nine to twelve ſhillings;* and even at theſe wages, there is a ſcarcity of workmen.

In order, therefore, that the buſineſs of the Society may be carried on with efficacy, they muſt, if I may uſe the expreſſion, *ſet down* the principal houſes of every village, and leave the farther progreſs thereof to the conveniency, and the ſpeculative views of thoſe perſons who may become the firſt inhabitants, as well as to others in the neighbourhood, as half-pay officers, widows, &c. who might be encouraged to build, by means of the workmen who would ſettle there, and the conveniency of finding materials in the hands of traders on the ſpot.

* This great augmentation is partly owing to the great riſe in the *price* of proviſions within theſe laſt thirty years, of which I ſhall give an inſtance from Glaſgow and other trading towns in that part of the kingdom.

Thirty years ago.	*d.*	In the ſpring 1786.	*s.*	*d.*
Beef, veal, and mutton per lb.	4		0	11
Butter	4		0	11
Salmon	1½		0	8
Eggs per doz.	1½		0	7
Meal per peck	7		1	1

If the Society ſhall enter into contract with ſuch builders as offer the loweſt terms by piece-work, for the firſt erections, theſe men will furniſh themſelves by wholeſale, and at the eaſieſt prices, with all the materials neceſſary for fulfilling their engagements; and it will only be requiſite that the works, as well as the materials, be cloſely examined from time to time, on the part of the Society, during the progreſs of the buſineſs.

I might advance another argument in favour of this plan of action, on the part of the Society, from ſome circumſtances that have come within my own obſervation. One of the proprietors of the coaſt of Oban, in Argyleſhire, has brought together on that ſpot, about twenty-ſix families, who built their own houſes upon a very moderate plan, and through whoſe exertions great things were expected; but the people ſtill remain in much the ſame ſituation as formerly, with the additional circumſtance againſt them, of having exhauſted their little property, or a conſiderable part of it, in mere dwellings only.

At Bernera in Glen Elg, the trifling circulation of money by the garriſon that had been formerly ſtationed there, drew together a number

a number of cottagers, who at preſent, the garriſon being withdrawn, are in the utmoſt poverty, and almoſt without the means of keeping themſelves alive.

The board of truſtees for the forfeited eſtates, made ſeveral ſpirited efforts to extend the fiſheries, and to introduce general induſtry in the Highlands. Another board at Edinburgh have expended very large ſums with the ſame views; but, from all theſe exertions, no effectual permanent ſettlement, or even the appearance of it, has been eſtabliſhed; and many thouſand pounds have been thereby loſt to the public.

Now, when we contraſt the flouriſhing ſtate of he fiſhing ſhores of Nova Scotia, on the one hand, and the very wretched ſtate of the fiſhing ſhores of the Weſt Highlands, on the other hand, we muſt look to the cauſes which produced ſuch oppoſite effects; we muſt abandon all contracted ideas of eſtabliſhing a proſperous colony, by means of a pitiful œconomy of a fund that was raiſed chearfully with the view of its being expended in ſuch a manner as the nature of the country, and the condition of the people, ſhould point out to be the moſt eligible and effectual.

So ſtrongly prepoſſeſſed are many people in Scotland with notions of *ſaving*, applied indiſcriminately to all caſes and circumſtances which may happen, that ſome gentlemen who admit the force of the before-mentioned arguments, are for thatching the houſes with ſtraw, heath, or fern, in order to ſave a trifling expence.

The conſequence of this ill-grounded parſimony would be;

Firſt, Very great danger that the towns thatched with ſuch materials, would ſooner or latter, be deſtroyed by fire.

Secondly, That the houſes would want continual repairs, and at the end of certain periods, they would want to be completely new thatched.

Thirdly, That it would be extremely injudicious to uſe ſtraw for thatch in a country that does not raiſe a ſufficiency for the cattle, who in ſevere winters have no other ſubſiſtence.

Fourthly, This kind of thatch occupies much time which might be directed to other objects.

Fifthly, Thick loads of vegetable thatch retain great quantities of rains, to which

that

that country is particularly expoſed, which muſt be very prejudicial to health.

All theſe inconveniencies, as well as an endleſs expence, will be avoided by means of ſlate roofs, which laſt for ages, which require no expence after the firſt coſt, and have always an agreeable appearance.

I obſerved in my laſt journey along the coaſt of the Murray Firth, a fiſhing town that was built with an uncommon degree of uniformity both in the dimenſions of the houſes, and the materials of which they were erected. On firſt viewing this place, I concluded that the houſes muſt have been erected by ſome builder of conſiderable property and taſte, but upon farther enquiry, I was informed that the fiſhers there had been accuſtomed of late years, to travel every ſummer as far as the Firth of Clyde, where they kept boats and tackling for catching white fiſh, with which they ſupplied Glaſgow, Paiſley, Greenock, &c. and returned in the winter to their families, with *pocket fulls of money*. That every man built a houſe for himſelf, at a great expence, which they ſaved in other matters, becauſe *they liked to live in decent houſes*, ſuch as thoſe that they ſaw in the Weſt Country; and

and that no houſe in the newly raiſed town coſt leſs than thirty pound, or more than ſixty.

I perceived that each houſe had two apartments below, with a deal loft above, fitted up for the purpoſes of ſleeping, holding lumber, ſails, ropes, iron-work, nets, lines, baſkets, &c. that there was a ſmall window at each gavel, which ſerved to dry their nets, lines, cloths, and ſhirts.

From the want of ſlate in that country, and the great expence of bringing it from the Highlands, many of them had roofed their houſes with tiles, which they conſidered as greatly inferior to ſlate.

I viewed the inſide of ſeveral houſes: ſome had floors of earth, others of deal; ſome had two rooms above, others only one open place. The quality of the furniture was alſo various, and correſponded with the abilities of the reſpective inhabitants. It was in general neat, and the people ſeemed to be ſenſible that they were better lodged than the other fiſhers upon the coaſt.

They complained that the maſons and carpenters took the advantage of them in their charges, for which they ſaid, they could get no remedy. It is conjectured, that if one man

man of property had built all theſe houſes, he would have ſaved twenty or thirty per cent upon the price of materials, by purchaſing at the firſt hand: whereas theſe poor people were at the mercy of inferior builders, who were themſelves at the mercy of the traders by whom they had been ſupplied, probably upon long credit, which the traders would not fail to lay upon the articles.

Before I cloſe this addreſs to the Society, I find it an incumbent duty to give my reaſons for diſſenting from a very conſiderable number of people in another particular reſpecting the fiſheries to be carried on by the inhabitants of theſe ſhores.

By the act of Parliament, the Society is allowed " to raiſe a capital joint ſtock, to " be applied to purchaſing or otherwiſe ac- " quiring lands and tenements in perpetuity, " and for the building of free towns, vil- " lages, harbours, quays, piers, and fiſhing " ſtations on ſuch lands ſo purchaſed, or " acquired, and on no other lands or tene- " ments whatſoever."

Though theſe words are ſo clear that they cannot be miſtaken, many perſons have propoſed ſchemes both in print and in manuſcript, that are incompatible with the original

idea

idea of the proprietors, and contrary to the expreſs words of the act.

They urge the neceſſity of ſupplying the fiſhers with boats, nets, lines, hooks; or of lending them money to purhcaſe theſe articles, alledging that without ſuch aid from the Society the whole plan will pove abortive.

This plan, conſidered in the moſt favourable view, would only give a temporary ſpurt to induſtry. Should the boat be loſt; ſhould the nets, hooks, and lines be deſtroyed, loſt, or damaged, which happens frequently, the people would look to the Society's fund to repair the injuries ſuſtained from time to time, *ad infinitum*. Was this method to be adopted, it would be neceſſary to keep an extenſive aſſortment of boats, anchors, ſails, ropes, nets, lines, and hooks for the ſupply of the country. And were the herring and white fiſheries to fail for one or more years on any part of the coaſt, or in any of the lochs where they had reſorted for ſome years; it would be neceſſary alſo to have plenty of ſpecie, and proviſions in the general ſtore, for the ſupport of a great number of people which the before-mentioned allurements would bring together.

Having

Having repreſented the probable conſequences of this plan upon the ſuppoſition that the fiſhers were *all* ſober, honeſt, and induſtrious men, I ſhall now conſider them in a leſs favourable light:—as a great body of men, of different inclinations and habits, many of whom, inſtead of profiting by the benevolence of the Society, would ſpend their time in idleneſs and tippling, till they had conſumed boats, anchors, &c. and probably run up ſome *ſcores* upon the faith of freſh ſupplies from the ſtore.

In this repreſentation I go upon events that have actually happened. The board of truſtees for the forfeited eſtates went exactly upon the plan that has been generally recommended to the Society. They ſupplied the fiſhers and farmers with boats and fiſhing materials, till they diſcovered the inefficacy of ſuch meaſures, when they left matters as they found them, after having expended a large ſum in ſupporting idleneſs and extravagance.

A certain nobleman in the North, has particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf in his exertions for extending the fiſheries and promoting induſtry upon his eſtate. To ſome he gave boats and nets; to others he gave looms; and his expectations

roſe

roſe in proportion to the magnitude of his bounty; till, after a fair trial, all his hopes vaniſhed in ſmoke. The articles which he had thus furniſhed, ſuddenly diſappeared; they were ſold or pledged; and the objects of his bounty, hoped his honour would again help them to a boat, net, or loom.

When he ſpoke to me on this ſubject, he declared with a degree of warmth, that the greateſt error in his conduct, was his *giving* theſe articles; adding, that thoſe whom he had thus aſſiſted, had proved worthleſs and ungrateful. "For God's ſake, ſaid he, have no-"thing to do in that way, for you may depend "on it, you will be diſappointed."

Such being the effects of theſe experiments, I hope the Society will act with the greateſt caution in the diſpoſal of their money to *promote induſtry* upon this plan, and eſpecially ſo, as there are methods of attaining that deſirable end, more effectually, and without any pecuniary aſſiſtance whatever from the Society.

The ſame laws which were intended as a ſtimulus to exertions, and to the extenſion of the fiſheries, contained among other injudicious reſtrictions, an obligatory clauſe prohibiting

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the buſſes from purchaſing herrings from the natives of the Weſt Highlands, and thus the poor people, who had formerly aſſiſted in completing the cargoes of ſuch veſſels as came among them, now ſaw themſelves deprived of the advantages which local ſituation, and the arrival of the herrings upon their ſhores, held forth.

As the raiſing and training a number of ſeamen, was a principal object of the legiſlative bounties, it was enacted that the buſſes ſhould continue fiſhing for the ſpace of three months from the day of their departure from port, unleſs they ſhould have ſooner completed their loading of fiſh *caught by their own men only*, under the penalty of forfeiting the bounty.

It is ſomewhat ſingular that a nation celebrated for knowledge in maritime affairs, did not ſee the inefficacy of this reſtriction.

When a veſſel arrives at the loch where the ſhoal of herrings are found, ſhe caſts anchor in ſome ſafe creeck, where ſhe remains moored during the whole time of the fiſhery, which is carried on in the night time by long-boats of which every buſs has three upon an average. When the men go on board theſe boats to caſt their nets, and to haul them in alternately,

nately, no ſeamanſhip is required; no knowledge is gained. It is a drudgery for which any labourer is equally quailified with the moſt experienced marriner. The real ſeamanſhip conſiſts in navigating to and from the fiſhing grounds; in reſearches after the herrings; in adjuſting the ſails to all the viciſſitudes of weather, and to the various points of the compaſs, on that very intricate navigation.

Therefore, by tying down the ſeamen two or three months to a ſedentary fiſhery in the openings of the coaſt, no valuable end is anſwered to government, or to the men themſelves, in nautical knowledge. In the mean time, the poor natives, thus deprived of their natural right, and without redreſs, remained, as they ſtill do, a miſerable, helpleſs burden upon the proprietors whoſe lands they occupied. A petty fiſhery for the ſupport of their own families, or their neighbourhood, in freſh herrings, were the only benefits which they could derive from the riches that came periodically upon their ſhores.

By the ſtatute of 1785, veſſels are now permitted to purchaſe herrings from the Highlandboats, *if, at the expiration of three months, they ſhall not have fiſhed their full cargo.*

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This law is, however, ſtill defective and very prejudicial to the buſs fiſhery, as well as that by the boats. By obliging the buſſes to remain three months at ſea, the owners are ſubjected to burdenſome expenditures in proviſions, liquors, and wages; while the Weſt India merchants are equal, if not greater ſufferers by the delays occaſioned through this tedious and precarious method of procuring cargoes.

It is alſo certain that though the buſſes are thus detained upon a ſedentary fiſhery by their long-boats, they ſeldom return home with more then half cargoes upon an average; whereas, a permiſſion to purchaſe herrings immediately upon their arrival at the fortunate loch, as well as to fiſh, would enable them to return earlier and with better cargoes, to the mutual benefit of all parties concerned, the merchant, the proprietors of buſſes, and the native Highlanders.

The buſſes ſhould be allowed as in Ireland, to fiſh, to purchaſe from the natives, or do both; and in every reſpect to act as circumſtances may dictate for their own benefit; provided, however, that all freſh herrings ſo purchaſed ſhall have been taken on the preceding night,

and not before; becauſe herrings kept longer do not take the ſalt, and cannot be well cured. On this account the Dutch laws ſtrictly prohibit their veſſels from curing herrings that have been kept above ten hours, and whatever herrings are uncured at ſix o'clock every evening, are thrown over board.

The reader will readily perceive from this ſtatement, that it would be in vain to give boats and nets to people who are not permitted to avail themſelves of the firſt and moſt convenient market. And it is alſo obvious, that as ſoon as this market ſhall be opened in the Highlands, the boat-fiſhers will in a very ſhort time be able, not only to ſupply themſelves with neceſſaries, but alſo to erect decent habitations.

Two traders in white and red herrings have lately ſettled at Loch Broom, who purchaſe all the fiſh that the boats can take, at five ſhillings or upwards for every barrel of uncured herrings. Let traders be encouraged to ſettle on all the fiſhing ſtations of the coaſt, and the ſame high prices will be given; but care ſhould be taken to keep the boat people independent of the traders, otherwiſe it may happen that the latter will lay exorbitant prices upon

upon the articles which the natives ſtand in need of, and cannot purchaſe elſewhere.

All running acounts betwen the traders and the boat fiſhers ſhould be diſcouraged. This practice tends to incite extortion on the one hand, and idleneſs on the other. It may however ſometimes happen, that a fiſher cannot ſupply the wants of his family by means of ready money, as in caſes of ſickneſs, and the ſcarcity of herrings.

When theſe misfortunes occur, it will be the duty as well as the intereſt of every proprietor and trader, to aid the induſtrious fiſherman while ſtruggling under difficulties which he could not prevent. This ſeems to be all the aſſiſtance that will be neceſſary, after the meaſures now recommended ſhall be adopted; at leaſt, it would be proper to make the experiment, and ſee their effects, before the Society ſhall involve themſelves in a train of difficulties, expences, and probably conſiderable loſſes, of which they have recent examples.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

WITHOUT a ſuitable aid from the public at large, all the exertions of the Gentlemen of the Highlands, and the Britiſh Society, will only ſerve to forward, in a confined degree, the great objects of national improvement, which the plan has in veiw.

Harbours, Keys, and Wharfs. — One of the moſt neceſſary, and alſo the moſt expenſive heads, relates to the conſtructing of harbours, keys, and wharfs, for the benefit of navigation in general, and the Britiſh fiſheries in particular.

There are two main paſſages for the Britiſh ſhipping that are bound for, or returning from foreign parts, viz. The South Paſſage, and the North Paſſage. The South Paſſage is through the Straits of Dover, which is convenient for London and other ports in that part of the iſland.

The North Paſſage is by the Orkney Iſlands, between which and the Mainland of Scotland there is a channel called the Pentland Firth, of only ſix miles in width, incumbered with iſlands,

iſlands, and, at its eaſtern entrance, ſome foul ground.*

In the more imperfect ſtate of navigation, this paſſage was generally avoided by mariners, who choſe to keep in the open ſea, along the north ſide of the Orkneys; but, ſince the publication of Mr. Mackenzie's excellent charts, the terrors of the Pentland Firth are become leſs formidable, and the Britiſh mariners are become more venturous. They boldly attempt the Firth even in the winter ſeaſon, becauſe by that paſſage, they ſave 150 miles in every voyage. It too often happens, however, that by thus ſhortening the paſſage they loſe both ſhip and cargo, with their own lives, or the greateſt part of them.

To the dark fogs and frequent hurricanes in theſe latitudes, are added the whirlpools, the counter-tides, eddies, and violent currents of this Firth, occaſioned by the weight of the Northern Ocean falling upon a channel of only ſix or ſeven miles in width, where the rapid waters are much interrupted by iſlands, rocks, and projecting points of land. There is always

* For the better underſtanding of this deſcription, the Reader may have a Map of Scotland before him.

in ſome parts of the Pentland Firth, a great ſwelling ſea, with breakers during ebb-tide, in the calmeſt weather, particularly during the ebb of ſpring tides. In other parts, the ſurges happen with the flood-tide. Ships endeavour to avoid theſe extraordinary convulſions of the water, but, with ſome winds, they are forced directly among them.

The rapidity of the currents alſo, in this Firth, at certain periods of the tide, often baffle all the efforts of the moſt ſkilful ſeamen, to prevent veſſels from being driven againſt the rocks or ſhores on either ſide. Thus, the navigation is equally hazardous in calm, as in ſtormy weather, eſpecially to ſeamen who are not well acquainted with the Firth; becauſe, in a dead calm, the ſhip, not being under the government of the helm, is hurried on with irreſiſtible velocity, to whatever direction the ſtream leads, whether towards the impending rock, or the ſandy beach. On the other hand, ſhould a veſſel be driven into the Firth, by the violence of a tempeſt, in a fog, or in a dark night, her ſituation is dreadful beyond deſcription. So great is the force of the winds in this channel, that ſtones of conſiderable bulk are torn from the cliffs, by the violence

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of the waves, and heaved over the rocks into the adjoining fields.

Such is the perilous ſituation of the numerous ſhipping which take their courſe through this channel; nor, except at one part, does the coaſt of the Pentland Firth, or upon either ſide of it, afford any place of ſafety to veſſels or boats, in ſtormy weather.

The weſt coaſt from Loch Inchard to Cape Wrath is a perpendicular rock of 200 feet in height. It is waſhed by that great body of water called the Atlantic, which, being oppoſed by the cliffs, daſhes againſt them with inconceivable fury; and here the devoted veſſel ſtruggles to gain ſome creek, which nature has denied to that unhoſpitable and almoſt uninhabited ſhore.

From Cape Wrath, which is the north weſt extremity of Great Britain, to Duncanſbay-Head, or as it is uſually called, Dungſbay-Head, which forms the North Eaſt extremity, the diſtance is ſeventy miles in a ſtraight line. This coaſt faces the Northern Ocean, and forms the main ſhore of the Pentland Firth. It is from one end to the other a moſt hazardous coaſt, compoſed, in ſome parts, of perpendicular rocks, and in other parts, of great

bodies of ſand, particularly at the mouths of rivers, where veſſels are frequently ſtranded through the violence of the winds.

On this extenſive coaſt, there is only one natural harbour which admits veſſels at any time of the tide, and where no danger from rocks or ſhallows is to be apprehended. It is called Loch Eribol; lies near Cape Wrath, in the moſt barren deſart in the kingdom, and conſequently affords no other aſſiſtance to ſhipping, than mere ſhelter from ſtorms and contrary winds.

That part of the coaſt which fronts the Eaſt Sea, is, if poſſible, more hazardous than the ſhores of the Pentland Firth, and it extends farther, being ninety miles in length between Dungſbay-Head and the Firth of Cromarty.

This coaſt, like that of the Pentland Firth, is compoſed in ſome parts of perpendicular rock; in other parts of ſand; and is ſo deſtitute of harbours, that whoever approaches it with ſtrong northerly, eaſterly, or ſoutherly winds, muſt either be daſhed againſt the rocks, or wrecked upon ſands. It is not even furniſhed with creeks, to which ſmall boats can run in ſtormy weather, without danger of being broke to pieces by the force of the ſurff upon the beach.

The

The more ſouthern part of the eaſt coaſt of Scotland abounds in creeks and ſmall harbours, but it has only one opening where ſhips of burden can enter with ſafety at low tides. This is the large bay called the Firth of Forth, or the mouth of the river Forth at Edinburgh, which lies nearly 200 miles to the ſouthward of the Pentland Firth.

From thence northward, lie the Firth of Cromarty, and the water of Neſs, into which ſhips can enter at all times of the tide; but as they lie ninety miles within land, and conſequently out of the uſual tract of ſhipping which paſs to and from the North Seas, or the Baltic, they can be of no great utility to general navigation.

From this review of the northern coaſts of Scotland, it appears, that veſſels in diſtreſs from ſtorms, leaks, or other cauſes, are under the unavoidable neceſſity of running a great many miles out of their courſe, to one or other of the following places: The Forth; the Firth of Cromarty, diſtant from the above upwards of two hundred miles. Stromneſs, or ſome other port in the Orkneys, diſtant from Cromarty one hundred miles; or Loch

Eribol,

Eribol, which lies at the weſt end of the Pentland Firth, diſtant from Stromneſs fifty miles.

As a conſiderable part of the Britiſh and Iriſh ſhipping muſt unavoidably navigate theſe northern ſeas, the loſſes ſuſtained by the merchants and underwriters are very conſiderable every year, eſpecially in time of war, when a greater portion of ſhipping take the northern paſſage, to avoid the enemy's cruiſers.

While on my journey along the coaſt of the Pentland Firth in October 1786, I was informed, that eleven veſſels, moſtly loaded had been wrecked withing the laſt ſix months, though the beſt ſeaſon of the year. One of theſe veſſels belonged to Liverpool, carried 800 tons, and was returning loaded from the Baltic.

In the Orkneys, as well as upon the oppoſite coaſt of the Mainland, the ſea is continually throwing aſhore detached parts of veſſels and their cargoes, the collecting of which employs a number of people, ſome of whom get rich through their aſſiduity in exploring the ſhores, as well as the ſurface of the ſeas and bays.

To the dangerous navigation of theſe ſeas, is to be added the inconveniences and loſſes ariſing from the want of materials, docks, and ſhip-carpenters, along the northern coaſts of Scotland. From Belfaſt Loch to Cape Wrath; from thence to Dungſbay-Head; and from Dungſbay-Head to Cromarty on the Murray Firth, there are no towns, dock-yards, or carpenters, for the repairing of damages. A coaſt of nearly 500 miles, could not upon any immergency, furniſh a ſail, a cable, or an anchor to a veſſel of burden.

It frequently happens that veſſels are got off with more or leſs damage in their hull and rigging, by which they are rendered incapable of performing the remainder of their voyage. Advice of the accident is ſent to the owners at Newcaſtle, Hull, London, Briſtol, Liverpool, Ireland, Glaſgow, or elſewhere, with a particular ſtate of the neceſſary repairs.

Under this circumſtance, the owners, or the underwriters, muſt either ſend a veſſel to the place where the ſhip has been ſtranded, with carpenters, timbers, iron-work, ropes, ſails, proviſions, liquors, &c. which is attended with ſome hundred pounds of expence; or, they muſt ſend an order to ſell the damaged

veſſel

veſſel to the higheſt bidder. When this is the caſe, the hull of the veſſel is generally bought for fire-wood at from 40 to 50l. while the ſails, anchors, and cargo, ſell for leſs than half their value, in a country where there are few perſons who can afford to purchaſe them.

On the whole, the mercantile loſſes upon the northern coaſts of Scotland, from the want of towns accommodated with workmen, and materials for repairs; and ſtill more, from the want of harbours, where ſhips could enter at all times of the tide, and in all kinds of weather, may be eſtimated at 40,000l. annually, upon an average of years of war and peace, beſides the loſs of many lives, and the conſequent diſtreſs of many families.

To this we are to add the extra inſurance upon all veſſels that navigate theſe ſeas; which, were harbours formed at convenient diſtances, would fall at leaſt one half, and probably ſave many thouſand pounds annually.

Theſe inconveniences and loſſes ſuſtained by navigation in general, from the want of towns and harbours, are felt in a proportionable degree by perſons concerned in the fiſheries,

from

from the poor men in their little boats, to the navigators of decked veſſels. And if it be admitted, that impediments to fiſheries are a national misfortune, the aggregate amount of theſe conſolidated loſſes, ſuſtained by general navigation, as well as by the national fiſheries, muſt be very great.

To lay the foundation of towns, and to induce ſhip-carpenters, blackſmiths, traders, and fiſhers to reſide there, falls within the plan, and is ſuited to the funds of the Britiſh Society; but to build keys, to conſtruct graving docks, and to form harbours, eſpecially on the Pentland Firth, and the eaſt coaſt of Caithneſs and Sutherland, is far beyond their abilities.

The extending the harbour of Aberdeen to fourteen feet water at full tides, coſt 17,000l. The new harbours at Peter-Head, Cromarty, and along the Murray Firth, coſt from 4 to 7000*l.* each, though none of them admit veſſels at full neap tides, drawing more than nine feet water.

Cuſtom-Houſes.—Wherever a town ſhall be erected, it will be neceſſary to eſtabliſh a Cuſtom-Houſe, or a branch of one. Theſe will ſoon repay the expence of the buildings, and the ſalaries of officers.

Packet-

Packet-Boats.—Five or ſix decked veſſels ſhould be eſtabliſhed between the Hebrides and the mainland, as packets, and one between Caithneſs and the Orkneys. The ſmuggling veſſels which have been ſeized by the revenue cutters would ſerve admirably for this purpoſe.

The packets ſhould be obliged to ſail on fixed days and hours, unleſs prevented by ſtorms or ſtrong head winds; and no veſſel, paid by the public, ſhould be allowed, on any pretence whatever, or at the deſire of any perſon whatever, to take on board horſes, black cattle, or ſheep, for ſale.

The veſſels ought to be completely fitted up for the accommodation of paſſengers, and the prices ſhould be regulated by the conveniences and the quality of the proviſions which the paſſengers might reſpectively chuſe.

By giving the commanders certain excluſive privileges, it is probable that the money got by means of paſſengers, baggage, parcels, &c. would reimburſe all their expences, and afford them a comfortable ſubſiſtence, without any ſalary from government.

Beſides facilitating the buſineſs of the fiſheries, and bringing the detached members of the

the Hebrides nearer to each other, and to the mainland, theſe packets would be the means of prolonging the lives of his Majeſty ſubjects, who, from motives of health or curioſity, would reſort to this Britiſh Archipelago every ſummer.

Whoever goes thither at preſent, muſt engage a veſſel at thirty or forty pounds per month, without proper accommodations, and even without bedding, which they muſt purchaſe for themſelves. To this great expence is partly owing, the ignorance of mankind reſpecting theſe Iſlands, and their importance to the Empire.

Military Roads.—The great ſums of money that have been granted by parliament for making roads and bridges in the Highlands, and the comparative inſignificancy of the roads already formed, has afforded matter of ſurpriſe to the inhabitants of that country, and to every perſon who travels thither.

A road has been made from Dunbarton to Inveraray, and ſome roads have been made to the chain of forts which croſs the county of Inverneſs, and from one fort to another, but,

but, in the northern counties of Roſsſhire, Sutherland, and Caithneſs, no roads have been formed; communications between the two ſeas are nearly cut off; intercourſe and traffick between man and man, are rendered impracticable; and mutual aid, though ſometimes neceſſary for exiſtence, is denied. Through a conſiderable part of the year, the inhabitants of each reſpective glen or valley may be conſidered as priſoners, ſtrongly guarded by impaſſible mountains on one ſide, by ſwamps, and furious torrents on the other. They diſappear from the public eye, and are only ſeen by their neighbours in the Low Countries, when the calls of their families lay them under the unavoidable neceſſity of venturing upon the arduous enterprize of a winter's journey.

On theſe occaſions, the women as well as the men ſet out in little parties, with what money they have been able to raiſe, in order to procure meal, fiſh, or whatever can ſupport nature, till the return of a better ſeaſon.

They encounter the rapid ſtreams; they climb the tremendous mountains, frequently covered with ſnow; they deſcend through a labyrinth of craggy declivities; they take up their lodging in hollows; or caverns, ſometimes

times in woods, and happy are thoſe who are able to reach ſome huts, whether inhabited or deſerted.

Thoſe who are in want of fiſh, direct their courſe to ſome of the Lochs on the Weſt coaſt; and thoſe who are in want of meal or ſeed, travel to Inverneſs and the Eaſt coaſt of Roſsſhire, where thoſe articles are imported. The main breadth of theſe northern countries between the weſt and the eaſt ſea is ſeventy miles, and it often happens that the inhabitants of either ſhore are obliged to travel in the moſt inclement ſeaſons, to the oppoſite ſhore, for the means of keeping their families from periſhing.

With the aſſiſtance of gun-powder, a ſucceſſion of carriage roads could be made between the two ſeas, and as far North as the Pentland Firth.

The conſtruction of roads in that country, is attended with conſiderable difficulties, and requires many hands. A line of rock muſt be blown, ſometimes a mile or upwards in length. Arches, of conſiderable magnitude, muſt be thrown from one rock to another, acroſs deep and horrid chaſms. Bridges, of the ſtrongeſt conſtruction, muſt be carried over impetuous

rivers, and ſolidity muſt be raiſed amidſt bogs and moraſſes.

When all this is done, the roads which are carried along the ſides of the mountains, require to be guarded from the numerous little torrents that pour from above, in wet weather, and particularly when the rain is accompanied by the melting of ſnow.

The bridges alſo that are built acroſs the great ſtreams in the valleys, will be endangered by theſe floods, unleſs great care ſhall be taken to conſtruct them upon the moſt ſolid principles of architecture.

For theſe reaſons, all the attempts of private gentlemen at the head of their tenants, in the North Highlands, and the Hebride Iſlands, muſt prove ineffectual. This buſineſs requires able and faithful engineers, at the head of at leaſt five hundred ſoldiers, and an equal number of Highlanders, who would be glad to enter upon the ſervice, as labourers, at ſeven or eight-pence per day. Theſe ſoldiers and Highlanders might be employed on different roads at the ſame time, in parties of fifty or upwards, as circumſtances might require.

Roads thus conſtructed, would bring the inhabitants of the Weſt, the North, and the Eaſtern

ern ſhores nearer to each other. New ſchemes of trade would be formed. By means of the fiſheries on the weſt coaſt, the inhabitants would ſupply themſelves with grain, meal, and other neceſſaries, from the eaſt coaſt, while the inhabitants of the interior parts, and of the Pentland Firth, would traffic with either ſide.

Many thouſands of both ſexes, who waſte their time in idleneſs, and are in all reſpects uſeleſs to the public, would find employment; they would live with more comfort to themſelves, and riſe in a ſlow, but certain progreſſion, to that mediocrity of fortune, which would extend to the national manufactures, commerce, and revenue.

Salt.—Much has been ſaid and written on this ſubject, by ſpeculative writers, as well as by traders in fiſh. It has frequently engaged the attention of the legiſlature, but no means have yet been deviſed whereby the fiſheries can be fully extended, and the revenue ariſing from ſalt, at the ſame time, effectually ſecured. On the contrary, we find, that with a view to ſecure this revenue, the fiſheries have been laid under ſuch reſtraints, and ſubjected to ſuch intricacies at the Cuſtom-Houſes, that numbers abandoned the buſineſs, and others were pre-

paring to go to Ireland with their capitals, their veſſels, and their experience, where few or no impediments to fiſheries exiſt.

The late committee of the Houſe of Commons upon the Britiſh fiſheries, inveſtigated the ſalt laws with more than ordinary attention, and ſome amendments have been made thereon by parliament; but great inconveniences ſtill remain, the particulars of which have been amply ſtated.

The money raiſed by the public on the article of ſalt in Great Britain, amounts to nearly 900,000l. annually, of which, only one third is received at the Exchequer; * and as this duty muſt ever prove an impediment to the fiſheries, by ſhackling them with unavoidable reſtraints; as the burthen of the duty falls heavieſt upon the labouring people and the poor, who live much upon ſalt proviſions; as two thirds of the money collected upon this article anſwers no valuable end to the public, ſome writers have recommended a com-

* The groſs revenue in 1776, - - - - - 895,489
Drawbacks, bounties, diſcounts, 622,865
Charges of management, - - 26,410
649,275
Net produce - - - - - - - 246,2144

a commutation, for raiſing a ſum equal to the neat revenue paid into the Exchequer from ſalt.

By this means the nation would ſave a very large ſum annually; while various deſcriptions of men, as fiſhers, merchants, curers of proviſions, and dealers in butter, would carry on buſineſs with greater facility, and at leſs expence.

But ſhould this general meaſure be found inexpedient at preſent, ſome immediate relief to the people of the Highlands ſeems eſſentially neceſſary; not only as affording the means of curing the fiſh upon their ſhores, but for the preſervation of their health, and their lives. Having no towns or ſtores where this article can be retailed out at a moderate price, theſe poor people are forced to live, through the winter and ſpring, upon half putrified fiſh, that have been dried without ſalt, the bad effects of which are ſeverely felt by thouſands in that miſerable country.

From the want of this article, they cannot even ſupply themſelves in the proper ſeaſon, with butter and cheeſe; and are therefore obliged very frequently to bring up more young cattle, by means of the milk in ſummer, than they can ſupport in the winter.

Therefore, as the ſalt duty in thoſe diſtant regions, while it ſubjects the inhabitants to

every evil that can ariſe from the want of that article, contributes nothing to the revenue, it would be expedient to eſtabliſh ſtores at ſuitable diſtances, along the coaſt of the mainland, as well as the iſlands, where every individual inhabitant might be furniſhed with ſuch a quantity of ſalt, duty free, as ſhould be found neceſſary for the uſe of their reſpective families, as well as for the curing of herrings and white fiſh, for markets.

In a very ſhort time, the perſons entruſted with the delivery of the ſalt, would, from their knowledge of the people, be able to eſtimate the juſt proportion to which every family would be entitled; and if it ſhould appear that ſuch perſons abuſed their truſt by partial favours, their removal would be a ſufficient warning to others in future.

By this method, or ſomething ſimilar to it, Government would looſe nothing, the people would be enabled to lay up proviſions for the winter, and even to cure fiſh for ſale, according to their reſpective abilities. Little villages or marts would be formed among the glens and ſtraths of the inland country, where fiſh, butter and cheeſe would be bought and ſold, to the mutual convenience of the inland as well as the maritime

time inhabitants; and mankind would wonder that ſuch ſalutary meaſures had not been adopted long before.

Coals. — When the treaty of union was formed between the two Britiſh kingdoms, the Scottiſh commiſſioners made a very unreaſonable, if not unjuſt diſtinction, between the people of that kingdom, in the article of coals. Thoſe who inhabit the center, which is the moſt fertile and opulent part of the country, and where coal is found in abundance, are, in virtue of the treaty, exempted from any duty upon that neceſſary article. While thoſe who inhabit the ruggid and barren extremities of the kingdom, where nature has denied coal mines, and to which the expence of water carriage from diſtant parts, amounts to more than the prime coſt of the coals, are burdened with a duty of 5s. 4d. per chaldron.

Thus the people who have coal at their doors, and at the rate of eight or nine ſhillings per chaldron, pay no duty; but thoſe who inhabit the more rigid climate of the north, who ſeverely feel the chilling blaſts of the Frozen Seas, to the heavy expence of a long water carriage, port charges, &c. have to pay ano-

ther ſum, equal to more than half the prime coſt of the article.

The aggregate of theſe various expences amounts, in ſome places, to twenty five, and in the more diſtant parts to thirty ſhillings or upwards per chaldron; beſides which, the importers of the coals have been, till very lately, ſubject to unlimited impoſitions by cuſtom-houſe officers, in the name of fees; and it may be farther obſerved, that a great number of people live at a conſiderable diſtance from the ports where the coals are entered, and have a ſubſequent land carriage to pay alſo.

But the expence of coals, however great, is not the only evil to which the purchaſers who inhabit theſe diſtant parts, muſt ſubmit. If one, or more perſons commiſſion a ſmall cargo of coals from Newcaſtle, Whitehaven, or any part of Scotland, the cargo muſt be carried, not to the place where the purchaſers reſide, or the neareſt port to it, but to the port where a cuſtom-houſe happens to be ſtationed, which is frequently above forty miles diſtant, and ſometimes, as at Banff and other towns on the Murray Firth, above fifty miles.

There the coals muſt be landed,* meaſured, and re-ſhiped at a conſiderable expence in

* See Journal, page 162.

in port charges, wages, proviſions, &c. beſides the riſk of looſing both veſſel and cargo in going to ſuch ports, or in coming from them, of which there are frequent inſtances.

The inconveniences ariſing from this duty were repreſented to goverment by certain repreſentatives from Scotland, during Mr. Pelham's adminiſtration, when the whole amount of the neat duty, received at the exchequer was only 1100l. and which Mr. Pelham offered to relinquiſh, in conſideration of an equivalent ſum from Scotland, to be levied in ſuch manner as the inhabitants ſhould fix upon; yet trifling as that ſum was, they could not agree upon the mode of raiſing it; and they have, ever ſince that time, ſuffered for their folly.

To the want of coals, has been owing, in a great meaſure, the ſlow improvements in agriculture and manufactures in the northern parts of Scotland, and the iſles. Perſons of abilities, knowledge, or experience, have been diſcouraged from attempting any purſuits in which this almoſt prohibited article was neceſſary. Thus the moſt valuable national purpoſes have been ſuſpended during a courſe of eighty years, for the ſhadow of a trifle.

Hardſhips

Hardſhips of the Eſtabliſhed Clergy, and Miſſionaries, in the Highlands.

Scotland, before the reformation, equaled any part in Europe, of the ſame dimenſions, in the number and magnificence of its eccleſiaſtical edifices; ſome of whoſe ruins, as thoſe of Melroſs, Paiſley, Dumfermline, St. Andrews, Arbroth, and Elgin, are beheld with admiration by every ſtranger. Theſe buildings were raiſed through the piety of the princes, nobility, and dignified clergy, between the acceſſion of Malcolm the third, in 1057, and the death of James fifth, in 1542.

The clergy, during that period, were numerous, reſpectable, and ſuitably accommodated with the neceſſaries and the conveniences of life. Some of them were eminent ſtateſmen, and proved ſteady patriots in the worſt of times, when faction prevailed, or when the liberties of their country were endangered.

The ſuperior clergy had a taſte for elegance and magnificence; they loved and patronized ſcience, literature, and the fine arts; they ſet examples in rural improvements; they entered deeply

deeply into commerce, and contributed in every reſpect to the flouriſhing ſtate of their country, and to its reputation among the nations of Europe, during the ages that immediately preceded the reformation.

The death of James V. cloſed that brilliant period, and ſo rapid was the ſucceeding revolution, that in leſs than thirty years, all the national exertions in literature, civility, arts, agriculture, and commerce, vaniſhed.

The people were ſeized with a religious phrenzy, which, in its effects, had no parrallel in the Annals of the Chriſtian World. Their reſentments againſt the religion of their anceſtors, extended not only to the clergy, and to the rites and ceremonies of that religion, but to the buildings where it had been taught. The noble edifices, which it had been the work of five centuries to erect, were raſed to the ground, or laid in ruins, within the ſpace of a few years.

The nobility and great landholders encouraged theſe deſolating ſcenes, or remained paſſive, while the outrageous humours of the preachers and people were venting themſelves. They had an eye to the church revenues, which they ſeized, and confirmed to their families, in

in a parliament, of which they were the members.

The preachers, inſtead of ſharing in the church livings, as they had expected, were not even allowed to taſte of the crumbs which theſe livings afforded. They now railed againſt the nobility and gentry, who, nevertheleſs, kept poſſeſſion of the revenues, which their deſcendants enjoy to the preſent day.

Here, therefore, was a new religious eſtabliſhment, without churches, and a new ſet of clergy, without ſtipend or ſalaries. The ſuperior excellence of the religion which had been introduced, over that which had been ſubverted, could neither feed nor clothe the authors of this revolution; but at length the parliament, who, as before obſerved, had monopolized the church lands and revenues, did, in the munificence of their hearts, from a zeal for the proteſtant religion, and in pity to the clergy, enact, that every eſtabliſhed miniſter of a pariſh ſhould receive from their reſpective pariſhoners, as a maintainance for their families, and to enable them to perform the duties of their miniſtry with comfort and

eaſe,

eaſe, a ſum equal to *five pounds* ſterling annually.

From the riſe in the price of grain or meal, of which the livings of the clergy are chiefly compoſed, and from additional ſtipends granted at different times by the heritors of the pariſhes, the average amount of livings has riſen to eighty pounds per annum. The number of clergymen that are ſettled upon the preſbyterian eſtabliſhment (excluſive of miſſionaries and ſectaries) is nine hundred or upwards; conſequently, the whole annual expence of the eſtabliſhed national clergy is only 72,000l. or thereabouts.

Though eighty pounds per annum ſounds high when compared to five pounds, the original ſtipend, yet thoſe who have experienced the expence of houſe-keeping and families, muſt allow, that this income is very diſproportioned to the expence of a fifteen year's education, the diſburſements of a family, and the rank which that family holds in ſociety.

Such is the condition of the clergy of Scotland in general; but however diſcouraging the ſmall pittance of eighty pounds may appear in the eyes of an Engliſhman, it would be conſidered in the Highlands of Scotland as an extraordinary

extraordinary ſum. Here, the ſtipends do not exceed fifty pounds upon an average, and even of theſe livings, the number is very few.

The Highlands, before the reformation, was well provided both in churches and clergymen, as appears from hiſtorical records, as well as the numerous veſtiges of ſmall religious houſes, which every traveller perceives upon the mainland, and the iſlands.

Since the reformation, many buildings have been eraſed, and the materials applied to other purpoſes; ſome are mouldering away with time, and the number of pariſhes has been greatly contracted; inſomuch that their general extent is now from twenty to forty miles in length.

As theſe pariſhes conſiſt chiefly of moors, bogs, and extenſive ridges of mountains, covered through a great part of the year with ſnow, and divided by almoſt impaſſable torrents that fall into large bays or lochs, (both of which muſt generally be croſſed,) the fatigues and inconveniences to the clergy, in the diſcharge of their duty, as well as to their hearers, cannot be conceived by thoſe who have not ſeen theſe countries.

But the caſe is ſtill worſe where a pariſh is compoſed partly of the mainland, and partly of

iſlands. Under ſuch circumſtances, both the preachers and the hearers, beſides the difficulty of travelling over mountains and moraſſes, have to embark in open boats, and encounter the main ocean in all kinds of weather, and to preach or hear in their wet clothes, and in places which barely give ſhelter from the inclemency of the elements. His late Majeſty, in order to mitigate the hardſhips of both clergy and people, granted 1000l. per annum, to be paid in ſalaries of from 25l. to 35l. annually, to a number of miſſionaries or itinerant clergymen, whoſe office is to preach at ſtated times, within certain limits or diſtricts. This ſum has been continued by his preſent Majeſty. It is under the management of the miniſters of Edinburgh, and other clergymen, who are denominated "*the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and the Iſlands in Scotland.*"

This bounty, however laudable the deſign, is productive of ſuch inconveniences and hardſhips to thoſe who receive it, as reflect diſgrace on a civilized nation. A number of men, who have devoted the early period of their lives to ſuch ſtudies as might qualify them for the miniſtry, are obliged at laſt to accept

of

of 25l. per annum, and often with a very ſlender proſpect of riſing to 30 or 35l.

For this trifling ſum, they muſt attend rigidly, and in all kinds of weather, to their duty. They muſt be punctually at the places appointed for preaching, on the days and hours fixed by the Committee at Edinburgh, under the penalty of being diſcharged from their offices. They muſt ſet out early in the morning, and travel on foot for a number of miles, among almoſt impaſſable deſarts, frequently under violent winds, rains, ſnow or hail. When they come to large waters or ferries, they are at the mercy of the people on the oppoſite ſide, and unleſs they ſhall previouſly agree to give an exorbitant price (eſpecially if the ferrymen happen to be Roman Catholics) in proportion to the inclemency of the weather, and the dangers from the rapidity of the torrents, they muſt walk farther, till they come to a ford in the river, or until they have got round the head of a bay. When they arrive at the field appointed for preaching, they find the poor people in the ſame ſituation with themſelves; drenched with wet, ſhivering with cold, and alike expoſed to all the inclemencies of weather during the time

time of ſervice, and on their journey back to their comfortleſs huts.

The miſſionary repeats the journey of the morning; ſtruggles to get under covering during daylight; and in this manner he performs his miniſterial duty, from one year to another.

I had often ruminated on this ſubject, and having, in my laſt journey, expreſſed a wiſh that the extreme hardſhips of the Miſſionaries might reach the royal ear, or thoſe in power, I have, in conſequence, been favoured with the following letter, ſigned by three Miſſionaries, with a further confirmation of the facts ſtated therein, ſigned by four eſtabliſhed Miniſters of the Preſbytery where theſe Miſſionaries officiate.

" Sir, In conſequence of the converſation we had in ———, concerning the ſituation of Miſſionaries in the Highlands, we whoſe names are ſubſcribed to this, all of us Miſſionaries in the Preſbytery of ———, avail ourſelves of the liberty which you then was pleaſed to grant me, of laying before you a general ſtate of our miſſions, which, we believe, may be conſidered as the ſtate of all the miſſions in the Highlands of Scotland.

" The extent of our miſſions, from one extreme to another, is from twelve to near

twenty miles; in many places, with not a veſtige of a foot path to direct the line of road over ſtupendous mountains and rapid rivers, without bridges, and often impaſſable. Beſides extenſive bays and arms of the ſea, without ſtated ferries or other methods of paſſage, except by hiring boats at ſuch exorbitant rates as ill ſuit the income of Miſſionaries, which is only from 25 to 30l. a year; without any other emolument, dwelling-houſe, paſture or tillage; and that in a country, where, from the want of markets, many neceſſaries are high priced, and difficult to be obtained.

" Not having the convenience of preaching houſes, (a very few only excepted) we are obliged to preach in the open air, expoſed to the heat in ſummer, and in winter to the inclemency of the weather; generally in wet clothes, and ſometimes without the benefit of neceſſary refreſhments, which render theſe miſſions extremely troubleſome, dangerous, and prejudicial to health. The very expence of clothes and linens, in ſuch ſituations, is as inconceivable as inſupportable.

" It will readily occur to Mr. Knox, that the chief mode of redreſs will be an addition to the preſent ſalaries of the miſſionaries, with a ſmall allowance for dwelling and

and preaching houſes, &c. If a more particular ſtate of each miſſion be thought neceſſary, we will at all times be ready to give every information in our power."

" *That the above repreſentation of facts is* " *genuine and pointedly ſet forth; and that the* " *redreſs hinted at will have the higheſt ten-* " *dency to promote both the religious and civil* " *intereſts of the Highlands of Scotland in ge-* " *neral, is certified and atteſted by.*"——

While the Proteſtant clergy have neither dwelling-houſes nor places to preach in, thoſe of the Catholic perſuaſion in the Highlands have both, and which are kept in excellent repair. On one eſtate only, there are ſeven prieſts and a Biſhop, who, beſides the contributions from their hearers, have a ſmall allowance from the church of Rome.

The above propoſal does not, however, appear to be adequate to the importance of the ſubject, or to the magnitude of the redreſs which the eccleſiaſtical ſtate of that country, and of the clergy requires. To effect a radical cure, it will be neceſſary to increaſe the number of pariſhes, by dividing thoſe of the greateſt extent into two or three, agreeably to the old diviſions, or otherwiſe, as circumſtances may point out.

By this means, a number of miſſionaries would be no longer neceſſary, and the preſent ſalaries of every two miſſonaries would maintain one pariſh miniſter.

Theſe ſalaries, however, even were the whole order of miſſionaries aboliſhed, would not be ſufficient to ſupport the additional miniſters, which the ſtate of that country and the iſles require, and may be computed at fifty or upwards: Whereas the royal bounty could ſupport only twenty.

In conſequence of this ſubdiviſion of pariſhes, another expence would be incurred in erecting churches, dwelling-houſes, and offices for the miniſters, amounting to 500l. at the loweſt calculation for each pariſh; or 25,000l. for the whole.

But, as it is much eaſier to form plans, than to carry them into execution, I have at different times attempted to make out a rough draft of the loweſt expence that would be requiſite for the various objects innumerated in this addreſs.

Upon the ſuppoſition that no room ſhall be left for jobbing, and that every department ſhall be conducted with judgment, and a ſtrict regard to frugality, about 500,000l. would, I believe, complete the whole: of this ſum, the

the conſtructing of harbours for the benefit of general navigation, would require the moſt conſiderable part. And it afforded a pleaſing reflection, when it occurred, that objects of ſuch magnitude, and ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the proſperity and ſecurity of theſe kingdoms, could be carried into effect without laying any additional burdens on the induſtry of the people:—An unfelt contribution, and that for two years only, upon one ſpecies of luxury, in a country where luxuries are boundleſs, would effectually complete all the conſtituent parts of the deſign.

Still more agreeable, was the conſideration which the circumſtances of the times afforded, for the proſecution of internal improvements.

The nation is at peace with all the world.

Commerce and navigation are flouriſhing beyond example, in the Britiſh annals.

Immenſe wealth is pouring in from both the Indies.

Manufactures are making a rapid progreſs both in extent and variety.

Villages are riſing to the magnitude of towns; while the towns are vying with cities.

And, as a concluſion to the happy period, domeſtic tranquillity pervades the Iſland from one end to the other.

But,

But, ſhould it be alledged by ſome, that no money from whatever channel it may ariſe, can be ſpared from the public ſervice; it may be anſwered with great propriety, that, as the ſecurity, and the permanency of theſe bleſſings depend chiefly on the ſtrength of the Britiſh navy, all other conſiderations, however important they may appear, ſhould give way to that object. The indiſpenſible neceſſity of raiſing a greater nurſery of ſeamen than was neceſſary in former times, will appear from the following ſtatement of the progreſſive increaſe of men, employed in the navy from the revolution in 1688, when England and Holland entered into a cloſe alliance of mutual defence, to the treaty of peace in 1782.

The war which commenced in			1689, employed	45,000
——	——		1702, ——	41,000
——	——	——	1740, ——	60,000
——		——	1755, ——	70,000
——	——	——	1775, ——	110,000

The late change in the political ſyſtem of France from military to naval exertions, and the powerful acquiſition of the Dutch navy to that of France and Spain, will, in all probability, require 200,000 men on the part of Great Britain; and when we recollect the oppreſſions, the difficulties, delays, diſappointments, and heavy expences in augmenting the navy,

navy, from 41 to 110,000 men ſince the beginning of the preſent century, it is evident to a demonſtration, that not only the protection of our trade and colonies depends chiefly upon a proportionable increaſe of ſeamen by means of the northern fiſheries, but alſo the defence of Great Britain itſelf, which, were it invaded by the conjunct force of thoſe powers, would receive a ſhock fatal to public credit, and to every department of which that credit is the main ſpring.

The unremitting exertions of France, in the number and magnitude of her ſhips; her unexampled encouragement to the European and American fiſheries; her very expenſive attempts to force a harbour for the royal navy oppoſite to the coaſt of England, and her well known diſpoſition for weakening the power and the influence of Great Britain, leave no room to doubt that ſome great deſign, aided by confederate ſtates, may one day come upon us like a thunder-bolt, unleſs we ſhall be prepared to avert the ſtorm, by having always in readineſs 200,000 ſeamen on whom we can depend, when wanted for immediate ſervice.

The inſular ſituation of Great Britain and Ireland, renders them vulnerable on every ſide,

along

along a coaſt of 3000 miles, lined for the greateſt part with unprotected towns, ſhipping, dock-yards, and valuable merchandize. It would be impoſſible to defend ſuch an extenſive coaſt by any other means than a powerful navy, which will always command reſpect, keep the enemy at a diſtance, divide their force, and perplex their councils.

Extending the fiſheries, conſtructing harbours and dock-yards, and otherways improving the ſea coaſts of the kingdom, will alſo facilitate the equipment of fleets upon ſudden emergencies, which hitherto have been obſtructed from the combinations, and the ſcarcity of coopers and ſhip carpenters; and poſſibly by means of bribery from internal factions, or foreign enemies.

It may be remembered, that on the commencement of the laſt war, the fitting out of the royal navy was retarded through the combinations of carpenters, and that the mercantile fleets were detained by ſimilar agreements among the coopers; though at the ſame time, the journeymen coopers on the Thames were receiving fifteen ſhillings per day for their labour.

In 1776, when a body of troops were to embark at Greenock, for diſtant ſervice, the whole

whole kingdom of Scotland could not furniſh coopers for fitting out and victualling the tranſports, which were conſequently detained till coopers arrived from different ports in England.

Next to the great object of naval ſtrength, that would be derived from theſe northern improvements, I might mention the increaſe of population, which would give additional force to the center of the empire; increaſe the public revenue, and extend the demands for Engliſh produce and manufactures.

In 1696, was eſtabliſhed in England, the office of Inſpector General of the value of Exports and Imports to and from all parts of the world; and in 1697, the general amount of exports was found to be 3,525,906; of which were ſent to Scotland annually, upon an average of years between 1696 and the union of the two kingdoms, to the value of 65,345l.

Between the year 1707 and the commencement of the laſt war, the exports to Scotland had gradually riſen to 2,000,000l. The war gave a check to the commerce of that country, and conſequently the exports from England were greatly reduced. By the reſtoration of ſhip building, and the carrying trade, to Great Bri-

tain; by the flouriſhing ſtate of manufactures, and the increaſing wealth of individuals, in the Lowlands of Scotland, ſince the year 1782, the exports from England to that country are now as high as ever. From theſe calculations it appears, that the exports to Scotland in the courſe of 80 years, have increaſed thirty-fold; and it may be ſuppoſed, that the money ſpent by the Scottiſh nobility and gentry in England within the ſame period, has increaſed in the proportion of five to one.

In ſumming up the benefits derived from Scotland, they conſiſt of

Exports in grain, coals, ſalt, manufactures of every deſcription, teas, Eaſt India goods -	2,000,000
Remittances of rents to the Scottiſh nobility and gentry reſiding in England - - - - - - -	500,000
Money ſpent by traders and other perſons, in their periodical journies to London; alſo remittances from boarding ſchools and academies	100,000
	2,600,000

Were the Highlands, the Hebride Iſles, and other parts of Scotland brought forward into the line of action, by which the inhabitants would be raiſed from idleneſs and extreme indigence, to habits of active induſtry, and a mediocrity of fortune, theſe hitherto neglected and uſeleſs diſtricts would become a valuable acquiſition to the merchants, traders, and manufacturers of England, whoſe riders would

penetrate

penetrate with their ſamples to the moſt remote glens; and cruize from iſland to iſland, regardleſs of the waves, or whatever ſtood in the way between them and their cuſtomers.

The income or wealth of Scotland, whether ariſing from rural improvements, the induſtry and temperance of the people, or its commercial ballances from foreign countries, center, and ever will center in England.

This country may, therefore, conſider Scotland as its principal mart, and the landed property of that kingdom as an inexhauſtible mine; from which channels flow a permanent flux of ſpecie, with this peculiar circumſtance in favour of theſe ſources, that they require no fleets and armies, no waſte of lives, and of millions, to defend or protect.

From that country, therefore, England derives every poſſible benefit, negative any poſitive; and which, by means of the local aids that have been ſo frequently mentioned in theſe ſheets, would accumulate beyond conception: for it is to be obſerved, that a very conſiderable part of Scotland lies in a ſtate of nature; that other diſtricts admit of farther improvement; and that the manufactures and commerce of the kingdom are moſtly limited to the banks of the Clyde, the Forth, and the

Tay,

Tay, with a narrow ſlip upon the Eaſtern coaſt.

When a ſpirit of trade, and improvements ſhall become more univerſal, pervading every ſhore, and every valley of the nation; when the fiſheries ſhall be better underſtood, and the coaſt rendered acceſſible to veſſels of every deſcription, and in all kinds of weather, Britain will find cuſtomers within itſelf, ſufficient to employ a million of people.

A

TOUR

THROUGH THE

HIGHLANDS, &c.

JOURNEY FROM LONDON TO EDINBURGH, AND FROM THENCE TO OBAN IN ARGYLESHIRE.

THERE are three main roads which lead from London to Edinburgh,* viz.

	Miles
By Berwick, on the eaſt, ...	388
—Wooler, in the center, ...	378
—Carliſle, on the weſt, ...	396

The counties and principal towns between London and Edinburgh, by the Berwick-road, are,

	Principal Towns.
Middleſex,	
Hertfordſhire,	
Bedfordſhire,	

A

* See the View of the Britiſh Empire, 3d edit. 556.

	Principal Towns.
Huntingdonſhire,	
Northamptonſhire,	
Rutlandſhire,	
Lincolnſhire, ...	Stamford, Grantham.
Nottinghamſhire, ...	Newark.
Yorkſhire, ...	Doncaſter, YORK.*
Biſhoprick of Durham, ...	Darlington, DURHAM.
Northumberland,	NEWCASTLE, Morpeth, Alnwick.
The Merſe, on the north ſide of the Tweed in Scotland,	BERWICK.
Haddingtonſhire, or Eaſt Lothian, ...	Dunbar, HADDINGTON.
Edinburghſhire, or Mid Lothian, ...	EDINBURGH.

The middle road ſtrikes off at Morpeth, 286 miles from London, and croſſes the Tweed at Coldſtream, or Kelſo, ſome miles weſt from Berwick; from thence it paſſes through the Merſe and Mid Lothian to Edinburgh.

* YORK lies on the left of the great north road; but the extra journey between Ferry Bridge, where the York road turns off the main road, and Northallerton, where theſe roads again unite, is only eight miles.

ſource to the ſea, are juſtly celebrated by all admirers of pictureſque ſcenery.

A good inn is much wanted towards the upper end of Strath Fillan, where the traveller would be amuſed with the views of Benmore, and the ſoft landſcapes of the valley; whereas the inn at Tyndrum is ſituated on the ſummit of an unhoſpitable bleak moor, and it is alſo too far diſtant from the ſtages at Loch Earne and Killein. The road from theſe places is alſo carried injudiciouſly from one riſing ground to another, inſtead of being formed on a level with the waters.

From Tyndrum to Dalmally is twelve miles, through Glen Lochy, a fine paſtoral ſtrath, watered by the Lochy, with a deſcent almoſt the whole way. The hills on both ſides, though remarkably lofty, form agreeable ſheep walks. Within two miles of Dalmally, the traveller looks down at once upon a pleaſant country, which receives additional beauty from the junction of two ſtreams, and a conſiderable woody iſland, on which ſtands the church and the parſon's houſe. A commodious inn at this place is rented at 6l. and the window-tax amounts to 4l. 10s. This diſproportion ariſes from the well-judged

judged munificence of the proprietor, who thus, almoſt at his own expence, accommodates travellers with decent lodgings.

Dalmally is a fine ſituation for an inland town. The adjacent country is partly arable, and abounds in cattle, ſheep, timber, and lime-ſtone. It is watered by two conſiderable ſtreams, which, at the diſtance of two miles, fall into Loch Awe, a freſh-water lake, above twenty miles in length, that might, at no great expence, be opened to the Weſtern Ocean, near Crinan, the intended courſe of a navigable canal, to ſhorten the paſſage into the Clyde. Dalmally has alſo the advantage of roads of communication in every direction.

From Dalmally to Bunawe, the diſtance is twelve miles; ſeven of theſe are carried along the north ſide of Loch Awe, which, at the north end, is triangular, and ornamented with ſeveral woody iſlands. On one of theſe iſlands ſtands Kilchurn-Caſtle, a conſiderable pile, falling to ruins. On another iſland are the veſtiges of a fortreſs; and a third was honoured with a cell or church. It is ſcarcely poſſible to do juſtice to the grandeur of this road. A ridge, or face of mountains, ſome miles in length, riſes from the

local ſituation, the number of its ſalt-water lakes, and the frugality of the inhabitants. This is the grand thoroughfare, as before obſerved, of the weſtern ſhoals. The lakes, or openings of that coaſt are numerous, many of them are capacious, and all of them extremely deep. Here the herrings take ſhelter from the turbulence of the open ſea, or they are forced thither by the direction of the winds, and the inceſſant perſecutions of of the larger ſpecies of fiſh, who, in the eagerneſs of purſuit, ſometimes run the herrings and themſelves almoſt dry upon the beach.*

Next in conſequence, are the WHITE FISH, which, as well as the herring, are the natives of northen latitudes, and theſe conſequently abound in greater quantities upon the coaſt of Scotland, than in any other

* The herring, cod, and other fiſh, are driven in ſhoals upon the coaſt of Norway, by the great herring whale; and as he dares not venture within the iſlands, which lie in front of that ſhore, he remains on the back of a great ſand bank about ſix weeks, watching for their return. In the mean time, the ſharks, and the ſmaller fiſh of prey, purſue the cod and herring along ſhore, into the creeks and inlets, where they crowd in ſuch numbers, that they are frequently taken up in baſket or pail fulls. Sometimes they are left by the tide, piled in heaps among the crevices of the rocks.

part of Europe, the coaſt of Iceland and Norway excepted. Theſe come alſo under two deſcriptions, the native, and the foreign fiſh, which follow the herrings from the northern ocean, through all their movements, and even into the inmoſt creeks and crevices of the ſhores. But the moſt certain and invariable fiſheries are upon the banks, which are placed in the Britiſh ſeas, where the fiſh are collected together, and thereby fall an eaſy prey to the patient and ventrous ſeamen.

Where the tops of the banks are ſhallow, and covered with a barren ſhifting ſand, which affords no ſubſiſtence, and the water from its ſhallowneſs, being generally agitated, the fiſh are found, in the greateſt numbers, upon the ſloping edges and in the pits of the banks.

Beſides theſe banks of the Weſt Highlands, which furniſh white fiſh of inferior ſize, the main ocean, as far as European veſſels have yet examined, is an almoſt continued fiſhery. Many banks have of late been diſcovered, and the beſt fiſhing grounds upon the old ſtations are now better aſcertained.

The

The white fiſh found in thoſe great repoſitories, and cured for home and foreign markets, are ling, cod, and tuſk. The cod, when caught in winter and ſpring, is eſteemed ſuperior to the Newfoundland, which is taken in the ſummer only, and brings a better price at the European markets. The ling and tuſk being unknown at Newfoundland, find a ready ſale. The tuſk is leſs than the cod, but ſuperior in taſte and flavour to all fiſh of that ſpecies,

Haddocks and whitings are found in ſuch abundance in the lochs, as well as the main ſea, that ſcarcely any value is ſet upon them in the Highlands. Lythe, a fiſh equal in ſize to a ſmall cod, and cuddies, a fiſh nearly equal to the herring, ſwarm upon theſe ſhores, and are eſteemed delicate eating by the inhabitants of every deſcription.

FLAT FISH, as turbot, halybut, ſkate, ſoles, and flounders, are in little requeſt, among the common people, who conſequently ſeldom or ever attempt to fiſh for them.

MACKAREL come periodically, in mighty ſhoals; but theſe are alſo deſpiſed, though capable of being cured for exportation.

SALMON. This fiſh, though comparatively harmleſs, yet partakes of the offered bounty

which the herrings afford. Some years ago, a ſmall body of the latter was thrown upon ſhore by a ſudden guſt of wind; the tribe of purſuers ſhared the ſame fate, among which were a number of ſalmon. The value of this fiſh was not known in the Highlands till very lately, and the fiſhery was much neglected.

SHELL FISH, as lobſters, oyſters, crabs, clams, muſſels, cockles, bring no price, and conſequently incite no attention, though it is well known that ſome of theſe fiſh might be pickled and exported.

Beſides the various ſpecies of fiſh above enumerated, which are ſuited for the table, the weſtern coaſts are ſtored with all kinds of CATACEOUS FISH, from whales of every denomination down to the grampus. Theſe have lately drawn the attention of the natives on account of the oil which they produce.

The SAIL FISH, or as it is called by Mr. Pennant, the baſking ſhark, is ſuppoſed to be a migratory fiſh from the Artic Circle. They frequent the coaſt of Norway, the Orkney and Hebride Iſlands, the Firth of Clyde, the Bay of Balliſhannon in Ireland, and the weſt coaſt of Wales, particularly Carnarvonſhire

ſhire and Angleſey. They appear in the Firth of Clyde, near the Iſle of Arran, in ſmall ſhoals of ſeven or eight, but more generally in pairs, ſometimes in June, and remain till the end of July, when they diſappear.

Though their ſize is from twenty-five to forty feet in length, they are moſt inoffenſive fiſh, and ſo tame, or ſo ſtupid, that they will ſuffer themſelves to be ſtroked in the water. They generally lie motionleſs, on the ſurface of the water, as if aſleep, commonly on their bellies, and ſometimes like tired ſwimmers, on their backs.

A hot ſunſhine day is the beſt time to proſecute this fiſhery with ſucceſs. A harpooner ſtrikes as near the gills as poſſible —The fiſh ſtill remains inactive, till the united ſtrength of two men has forced the weapon deeper, when it plunges to the bottom, and ſtrives to diſengage itſelf, by rolling on the ground, as appears from the harpoon, which is often bent.

This effort proving ineffectual, the fiſh ſwims away with ſuch rapidity, as to endanger the boat, to which the rope is fixed; and in this manner the fiſhers are ſometimes em-

ployed ten or twelve hours. The liver is the only uſeful part, and yields, particularly in the female, from ſix to eight barrels of pure ſweet oil, very proper for lamps, and much valued by tanners, who buy it at 3l. per barrel.

The SEAL, an amphibious animal, is found every where, and is valuable both for its oil and its ſkin.

The laſt, though not the leaſt numerous, are the DOG FISH, the moſt miſchievous of all the finny tribe, both to fiſh and nets.

After a ſmall quantity of oil is extracted, they are dried for winter's proviſion, among the poorer ſort of people, who give them the preference to others of far ſuperior qualities.

Such are the treaſures which theſe northern ſeas afford, a ſource of wealth unequalled on ſouthern ſhores, and which might give full employment to the inhabitants, in the various branches that relate to fiſheries, of which the Dutch reckon thirty; as fiſhermen, coopers, curers of red herrings, ſhip carpenters, block-makers, joiners, painters, blackſmiths, hecklers, ſpinners, net-makers, ſail-cloth manufacturers, ſail-makers, rope-makers, tanners, ſalt makers, coaſters, barge-

bargemen, curriers, labourers, women, children, and old people, who gut the herrings, and waſh them at the ſecond packing.

Thus we find that the Highlands, beſides ſupplying home demands, exports fiſh, black cattle, horſes, ſheep, timber, bark, lead, ſlate, and kelp; to which may be added ſundry articles of leſs importance, as ſkins, feathers, oil.

The aggregate amount of theſe exports is ſurely ſufficient to procure the neceſſary articles of grain, and various utenſils in iron, ſteel, timber, &c. wherewith to improve their lands, extend their fiſheries, furniſh themſelves with decked veſſels, and erect more comfortable dwellings.

Such are the ſpecific wealth and the ſpecific wants of the Highlands. But as the value of its natural produce, by ſea and land, is almoſt wholly abſorbed by the great landholders, and by many of them ſpent at Edinburgh, London, Bath, and elſewhere; as the people are thus left more or leſs at the mercy of ſtewards and tackſmen, the natural reſources of the country, inſtead of a benefit, become a ſerious misfortune to many improveable diſtricts. Thoſe who, by their

education and their knowledge of the world might diffuſe general induſtry, and raiſe a colony of ſubjects, uſeful to their king, to their country, and to themſelves, are the very perſons who glean theſe wilds of the laſt ſhilling, and who render the people utterly unqualified for making any effectual exertions in any caſe whatever.

CRUISES AND JOURNIES ALONG THE COAST OF THE MAIN LAND, AND AMONG THE HEBRIDE ISLANDS, BETWEEN OBAN AND CAPE WRATH.

DESCRIPTION OF ARGYLESHIRE.

ARGYLESHIRE, from whence I took my departure, extends one hundred and fourteen miles in length, from the Mull of Cantire, on the ſouth, to the Point of Ardnamurchan, on the north, where it joins the ſhire of Inverneſs. Its medium breadth is from thirty to forty miles, except the long peninſula of Cantire, which is only from eight to nine miles. The number of inhabited iſlands which compoſe a part of this ſhire, amount, as before ſtated, to thirty-nine, of which Mull, Ilay, and Jura, are the principal.

This very extenſive county is inhabited chiefly by the Campbells, Macleans, Macneils, Macdonalds; and, of theſe, the Campbells are the moſt numerous. During the laſt

laſt war, Argyleſhire raiſed a complete regiment of Fencibles, beſides a conſiderable number who enliſted in the marching regiments. As this is properly a maritime fiſhing county, waſhed on one ſide by the Atlantic, and on the other ſide by the Firth of Clyde and Loch-Fine, the number of ſeamen drawn from thence to the Royal Navy muſt have been very great. Above nine hundred men enliſted or were preſſed into the ſervice in different parts of the world, all of whom were natives of Campbeltown and its neighbourhood, and had been brought up in the fiſhing buſineſs carried on by the herring buſſes from that port.

When the projected canal ſhall be completed, and ſome villages and harbours erected, this populous county will become one of the moſt valuable provinces in the Britiſh empire. It abounds in black cattle, ſheep, and fiſh, though the latter are leſs numerous than thoſe on the more northern ſhores. Waſhed on both ſides by the ſea, deeply indented by navigable lakes and bays; having an eaſy communication with the fiſhing grounds on the North Highlands; with Glaſgow, and the trading towns on the Clyde; with

with Ireland, Wales, Whitehaven, Liverpool, Briſtol, and other marts on the weſt coaſt of England, we may eaſily conceive, that the period is at no great diſtance, when Argyleſhire will become a great commercial county. To corroborate this opinion, I have to obſerve, that after a veſſel gets under ſail from this coaſt, ſhe enters at once into the Atlantic, where ſhe meets with no interruption till ſhe makes the coaſt of America or the Weſt-Indies. The line, therefore, which nature points out for the inhatants, is, that of ſalt-making, fiſhing, ſhipbuilding, freights or the carrying trade; ſoap, and glaſs-making, by means of the kelp upon their ſhores, and ſand found upon Gia Iſland, which is adapted for the latter.

Argyleſhire has only three ſmall towns, viz.

1. INVERARAY, the capital, which has riſen to ſome conſequence, through the exertions of the family of Argyle, who have a princely ſeat here, ſurrounded with above a million of trees, that occupy many ſquare miles.

2. *Campbeltown*, the property of the ſame family, which roſe entirely by the herring fiſheries on the coaſt of the North Highlands.

3. *Bote-*

3. *Bowmore*, in the Iſland of Ilay, the property of Mr. Campbell of Shawfield.

Though theſe are ſea-ports, there are ſtations in this county far ſuperior, both for diſtant fiſheries and navigation. The firſt and moſt improvable is OBAN, which lies in that part of Argyleſhire, called Mid-Lorn. It has a good Highland country behind, with a free-ſtone quarry, Mull and other iſlands in front, and is of itſelf capacious, and ſufficiently deep for the largeſt ſhips. Without, is the iſland of Kerera, three miles in length; between which, and the main land, is the Sound of Kerera, a good road, through which coaſters and fiſhing veſſels generally paſs, between the Clyde and the fiſhing grounds in the North Highlands. This coaſt, and the iſland of Kerera, have alſo a free navigation to the white fiſheries off Bara, and the herring fiſheries on the north-weſt coaſt of Ireland.

A cuſtom-houſe is already erected, ſomething is done in ſhip building, and above twenty families have been collected together with a view to the fiſheries.

But theſe are inferior conſiderations to the national advantages which may be derived from

from this much frequented harbour and road.

Oban is formed by nature, and by a combination of favourable circumſtances, for being a principal harbour, a place of trade, a centrical mart for the South Highlands, and the numerous iſlands that lie in its vicinity. Here alſo a Royal dock and an arſenal might be erected. It is well known, that the beſt deſigns of Government for annoying the enemy, or defending our trade and Colonies, are ſometimes fruſtrated by means of contrary winds, which prevent the Royal fleets and tranſports from getting out of the harbours, or from getting round to the Land's End. It is alſo certain, that the enemy are informed by news-papers, and otherwiſe, of every equipment and motion of our ſhips and troops, which enables them to counteract our deſigns, by means of ſimilar ſquadrons, for by ſecret diſpatches to commanding officers abroad. The delays, and the loſs to the nation, ariſing from theſe circumſtances, muſt be very great; to remedy which, in a certain degree, it would be highly expedient to have an arſenal and a Royal dock-yard on the weſt coaſt of Scotland, where ſmall ſquadrons

drons and tranſports, with troops, could be ſecretly fitted out, and from whence they could ſail at all times of the year, and with any wind that blows. By this means, a fleet with troops might reach America, or the Weſt Indies, before the enemy could have the ſmalleſt intelligence of the deſign,* which would give our fleets and armies a decided advantage in that quarter of the world.

If Government ſhould be diſpoſed to regard this propoſal as a matter that merited ſome attention, I believe that Oban would be found the beſt adapted upon that coaſt. Here, and in the Sound of Kerera, a hundred ſail of the line might ride, at ſome diſtance from the ſhore, in five to twenty-ſeven fathom water.† By means of this ſound

* Provided that the few editors of the Scottiſh news-papers ſhould remain ſilent reſpecting theſe equipments, till the ſhips had actually ſailed.

† Mr. Murdoch Mackenzie was employed by Government to ſurvey the weſt coaſt of Great Britain, from Cape Wrath to the Briſtol Channel; alſo the coaſt of Ireland; which he executed with great attention, and much to the ſatisfaction of the ſeafaring people of the three kingdoms. I propoſe therefore to corroborate my own remarks, by extracts from what he calls "*Nautical Deſcriptions of the Weſt Coaſt and Weſtern Iſlands of Scotland, from Cantire to Cape Wrath, and the Butt of the Lewis.*"

Speaking

ſound, veſſels have a paſſage to the ſouth, and alſo to the north, which gives them an opportunity of ſailing out with any wind, and in leſs than half an hour they are in the open ocean.

Next to theſe advantages is the happy ſituation of Oban, between Loch Linnhe and the Sound of Mull, on the north, and the propoſed communication with the Clyde, on the ſouth. Loch Linnhe is a large body of water, which is navigable to Fort William; from thence there is a good military road to Fort Auguſtus, and from thence to Fort George.

Thus

Speaking of Oban, he ſays, "In the Sound of *Kereray* there is very good anchorage for ſhips and veſſels of any ſize; and it is a convenient place for veſſels that are bound either northward or ſouthward. The beſt parts to ride in, are, in the bay of *Oban*, and oppoſite to *Oban*, near *Kereray*, and between the ferry-houſe of *Kereray* and *Ardnachroik*, neareſt the latter, on eight or ten fathoms, without going within the bay, for it ſhallows faſt near that ſhore.

"The *Horſe Shoe* is a ſmall creek in Kereray, about half a mile weſtward of *Ardnachroik*, in the mouth of which a veſſel may ride very ſafe with an anchor on each ſide, or a veſſel may lie aground within this creek, on a ſoft ouzy bottom.

"In the bay of Glatrach, at the north eaſt end of Kereray, a veſſel may ſtop a tide on good ground on any ſide of the rock, which is always above water, or on either ſide of Ilanagaun."

Thus one fort ſtands on the weſt ſea, and has an eaſy communication with Ireland and the weſt coaſt of England; another fort ſtands in the center, at the diſtance of thirty-one miles; and a third, upon the eaſt coaſt, and has an eaſy communication with Edinburgh and England, on that ſide.

Theſe forts can lodge, upon an emergency, five or ſix thouſand men, all of whom could be conveyed from Fort William to Oban in a ſhort time; or ſhould the wind blow ſtrong from the weſtern points, the diſtance by land is not very great.

Further, were recruits to be ordered from the weſt coaſt of Inverneſs-ſhire, Roſs-ſhire, Sutherland, Sky, and other iſlands in the North Highlands, the Sound of Mull is the direct channel to Oban, which lies near the entrance of that ſound.

On the ſouth, the propoſed canal to open a communication with the Clyde, will make the navigation for coaſters, from that river, ſo eaſy, that troops might be conveyed in two days from Greenock to Oban.

Hitherto the troops have embarked at the former place, which is ſubject to the ſame inconveniencies from contrary winds, as the Thames,

Thames, or Portſmouth. No fleets can ſail from Greenock down the Firth of Clyde with ſoutherly and ſouth-weſt winds, which ſometimes continue in that quarter four or five weeks; neither can they clear the Mull of Cantire, without ſome hazard of receiving damage on thoſe turbulent ſhores, or of being forced into a port, where they might be detained ſome weeks.

As I ſpeak of theſe matters from a long acquaintance with that coaſt, and the effects of the winds on both ſides of the peninſula of Cantire, I think it incumbent to ſtate them fairly, in the hope, that ſooner or later, theſe ſuggeſtions may prove the means of farther inveſtigation. If any attention is to be paid to the improvement of the Highlands, and if in return, the Highlands can be rendered more uſeful to the ſtate, it is to be wiſhed, that for the ſake of mutual advantage, the buſineſs may be done completely.

JOURNAL.

HAVING given this general ſketch of the ſouth part of the Weſt Highlands, I ſhall trouble the reader with ſuch particulars of my journey and voyages northwards, as, I hope, will contribute to a better knowledge of that country and people.

When I arrived at Oban, I ſaw the main ocean on one ſide, and an extenſive line of coaſt on the other. The firſt preſented an almoſt endleſs groupe of iſlands and rocks, among which I was to cruiſe, amidſt the rapid tides occaſioned by promontories and bold ſhores, where the ſea is pent up ſometimes within the breadth of a mile, and runs with the velocity of the ſtrongeſt currents.

The land exhibited one continued maſs of lofty and pathleſs mountains, covered with heath, frequently with moſs, and interſected at the baſes, by large bays or lakes, called *lochs*,* which were unavoidably to be croſſed in all kinds of weather, and where the navigation, owing to the ſudden guſts of

* In Ireland, theſe openings are ſpelled *loughs*.

a part of them, made a desperate attempt to return home, by going round the north of Scotland, to Cape Wrath, and from thence southward through the narrow seas of the Hebrides. One of these ships called the Florida, was blown up by a Mr. Smollett of Dunbarton, near this fort, where a part of the hull still remains. When I was at this place, a fleet of thirty sail of herring busses from the south, was driven into the bay, towards the evening, by a strong gale of wind, none of whom were to be seen next morning. They had heard that herrings were in the north, and every vessel crouded sail at the break of day for that quarter.

The harbour of Oban is so strongly sheltered by nature, that a small battery placed at each opening, could defend it completely against any number of cruisers. By this means any quantity of timber, naval stores, provisions, &c. might be lodged in perfect safety, which would prove a considerable relief to shipping in general, and to the Highland coast in particular. This place is also happily supplied with excellent water, abundance of turf immediately in its vicinity, and freestone at a convenient distance upon the

the oppoſite coaſt of Morven, near the ſmall harbour of Loch Alin.

The ſhore around this bay is the property of the Duke of Argyle, and John Campbell, Eſq. of Knock, in Mull.

From this place I croſſed over to the north-weſt ſide of the iſland, where I found ſome excellent corn fields, and good paſturage. Here I embarked with Mr. Campbell, in a boat of twelve or fourteen tons, and coaſted along the weſt ſide of Mull, which is deeply indented by two great bays, or lakes, and abounds in iſlands. We paſſed the famous iſland of Staffa about ſix o'clock in the evening; and kept off and on for ſome time, that I might have a view of the entrance of Fingal's Cave, and the majeſtic pillars which compoſe that noble arch. There is generally a ſurf, or ſwell of the ſea, at this place, which utterly precludes all poſſibility of entering the Cave, except in very calm weather. This was the caſe when we made the iſland, which, with the lateneſs of the day, prevented our landing; and we bore away ſouthward, to a diſtrict in Mull, called Roſs; of which Loch Laigh, or more properly, Loch Lye, is the harbour.

In

In this day's voyage, we croſſed the great opening called Loch Tua, and had a diſtinct view of the iſlands which lie in the mouth of it, and the little iſland of Inch Kenneth, where Dr. Johnſon was hoſpitably entertained by Sir Allan Maclean, who is now dead.

Next appeared Loch Scridan, ſometimes called Loch Levin, which we croſſed in the dark; and got, with difficulty, into the ſmall bay of Loch Lye, which is ſituated near the entrance of the former.

Here we landed, and groped our way to a ſmall public houſe, where we had the mortification to find the doors ſhut and the people in bed. Mr. Campbell's name, however, ſoon procured us admiſſion. Any lodging on *terra firma*, was preferable to the accommodations which an open boat affords, and eſpecially in ſuch weather as we experienced between the 26th and 30th of July. It then blew with ſuch violence, as to ſhake the corn from the roots; it broke, or cut off the tops of the potatoes, by which the growth of the root ceaſes; and as no ſtorm of equal violence and duration had been remembered during a number of years, great fears were entertained for the

buſſes and ſmall craft then at ſea, among the iſlands.* Our boat, though ſeemingly toſſed out of the water by every wave, neither drove, nor received any material damage; a proof of the goodneſs of the harbour and the anchoring ground.

Mr. Mackenzie's account of this bay is leſs favourable,† but it is to be obſerved, that he ſpeaks of bays, as he found them, in their natural ſtate only, without deſcribing the ſhelter which artificial works would afford. Thus we find, that Loch Lye might, at a ſmall expence, be rendered a ſafe, commodious harbour for all veſſels of ordinary ſize, which navigate the great outer channel between Mull and the Long Iſland. That a har-

* Clanronald, and Captain Macleod of Harris, were then on their paſſage from Greenock to the Long Iſland, in a fine decked veſſel. When this ſtorm came on, they run to a port, and lay ſnug till it abated.

† "Loch Laigh is open to the north, near two points of the compaſs, and therefore cannot be reckoned a good harbour: but there is no danger in ſailing into it; the ground is all clean, and toward the head of the bay holds pretty well; ſo that in ſummer it may be reckoned a ſafe harbour, but not in winter. The ſafeſt anchorage is near the head of the bay, on the weſt ſide of Ilan-Vaan, on four or five fathoms water."

Mackenzie.

harbour ſhould be formed on the weſt ſide of Mull, is evident, from the many ſmall iſlands, rocks, and ſcars, which lie in this channel, and from the want of good harbours in thoſe iſlands, as the weſt ſide of Jura, of Oranſay, Colonſay, Icolumkill, Tirey, Coll, &c. Loch Scridan, near Loch Lye, is a fine harbour; but the beſt anchoring ground is ſeveral miles within land, and is therefore out of the courſe of ſhipping.

The country around Loch Lye is eſteemed the moſt fruitful part of Mull, and it is, conſequently, the moſt populous.

The ſacrament was adminiſtered during my ſtay here, at which a very great concourſe of people attended, from the neighbouring parts, and alſo from Icolumkill. They appeared decent in their apparel and behaviour, and had the character, from Mr. Campbell, their miniſter, of being quiet, well diſpoſed people.

While I was ſtrolling on the hills, to view the iſland, and the appearance of the ocean in a ſtorm, I was kindly invited into a cottage, preſented with the ſnuff-mill, and heard great news! viz. That the Duke of Argyle, was going to make a canal at Loch Crinan, and to build many towns in the Highlands!

Some days before this converſation, I had been informed by a man from Tirey, that the Duke of Argyle and the King were to carry on theſe grand works between them!

I ſounded the praiſes of both, and told the man that the great Earl of Breadalbane, and many great lairds, had promiſed to aſſiſt the Duke of Argyle and the King in making the Highlands a grand country.

The ſtorm having ſubſided, we left this agreeable place, which is the property of the Duke of Argyle, and ſailed towards Icolumkill, which is alſo owned by the ſame nobleman. As it would be inexcuſable to paſs over this iſland and Staffa in ſilence, and as I had not an opportunity of landing upon either of theſe celebrated iſlands, I ſhall gratify the reader, by ſubjoining, in the Appendix, the accurate deſcription by Mr. Pennant, who examined Icolumkill with a critical eye, and whoſe accounts may always be relied upon, as well as the juſtneſs of his drawings or views. To this I ſhall ſubjoin the nervous, but leſs ſatisfactory deſcription given by Dr. Johnſon.

For the deſcription of Staffa, we are indebted to Sir Joſeph Banks, which is alſo given in the Appendix.

The

The delay occaſioned by the ſtorm obliged me to paſs the iſland of Icolumkill, without landing upon it. We were now bound for Tirey; the diſtance exceeded twenty-five miles. Had we gone aſhore on the former, in our paſſage to the latter, we muſt have remained all night, with the hazard of bad weather, or a contrary wind; by which ſome days might have been again loſt. I therefore ſtretched away along the coaſt of Mull and Icolumkill, in the hope that a more early ſeaſon would give me a better opportunity hereafter of ſurveying theſe great curioſities of nature and art.

The condition of the people on theſe ſhores, and the ſtate of the fiſheries, being indiſpenſible ſubjects of enquiry, I had the pleaſure to hear, that the people of Icolumkill had diſcovered, immediately upon their coaſt, a valuable white fiſhery; that they had juſt begun an imperfect trial of this fiſhery, and were preparing for greater exertions the enſuing ſeaſon. Unfortunately, there are no harbours on this iſland; but if a town and port ſhall be built at Loch Lye, which is only five or ſix miles diſtant, this whole coaſt will find a market, and be ſupplied with neceſſaries.

We were now between Icolumkill and Staffa, which, as the day was fine, we ſaw to great advantage. We perceived the church, and other ancient buildings of the former, very diſtinctly. The remains of dwellings erected above a thouſand years ago, excite a degree of veneration, which, though ſtrongly felt, cannot be ſufficiently deſcribed. Staffa, on the right hand, appeared in the form of a bold rock, ſupported by pillars that had long repelled the fury of a turbulent ocean.

Beyond Staffa, on the north, appeared Lunga, and a number of inferior iſlands, among which, that called, from its form, the Dutchman's Cape, is the moſt diſtinguiſhed. It is a lofty iſland, and ſerves as a ſea mark to veſſels which navigate the outer channel.

Tirey and Coll appeared, at a diſtance, as one iſland, of about twenty miles in length, having ſome gentle riſings. There is a channel, however, between them, of more than a mile in width, and navigable with an experienced pilot. They lie ſouth-weſt and north-eaſt. Tirey is the moſt ſoutherly; and here we arrived about ſun-ſet, in a little creek, ſo very narrow at the entrance, that

no

no veſſel dare enter it, except with moderate weather and a leading wind; yet this was the only place in the iſland on which any money had been expended. Here is a ruinous pier, whoſe dimenſions are proportioned to the ſize of the harbour where it is built. A ſmall veſſel may lay her ſide to it, and the harbour or creek will contain three or four veſſels of that ſize.

As ports where ſhips of burden can enter and depart in all kinds of weather, and at all times of the tide, is a matter of the greateſt importance to the navigation of theſe kingdoms in general, and to local ſituations in particular, I traverſed the whole coaſt of this iſland, to ſee if ſome port more capacious than the place above mentioned, could be found. After this excurſion, I found no place ſo practicable as the Bay of Gott, or as it is called by Mr. Mackenzie, the Bay of Kirkabul.* Mr. Campbell, and other perſons who have frequently entered this bay,

* "In Tiri there is no ſafe place of anchorage; only in ſummer, a ſhip may ſtop on clean ground, in Travy Bay, almoſt any where above two cables length from the ſhore. Or on the weſt ſide of Kirkabul Bay, on three or four fathoms, about two or three cables length from the ſhore."
Mackenzie.

were decidedly of the ſame opinion; but it will require a ſtrong pier, to ſecure ſhips in all winds. The want of harbours between Mull and the Long Iſland has already been mentioned. The diſtance from Belfaſt Loch, at the north end of the Iriſh channel, to the iſland of Canay, in the north Hebrides, is above one hundred and ſeventy miles; and from Loch Lye in Mull, on the eaſt, to Loch Boiſdale, in the Long Iſland, on the weſt, is fifty miles. Between theſe places there is no harbour, where veſſels navigating the outer channel can enter, or lie ſecurely, in any weather. Neither is there any lake or bay in this great ſpace, that admits of being made a ſafe port, excepting the Lay of Gott, above-mentioned.

The Iſland of Tirey is the ſole property of the Duke of Argyle, who draws from thence 1,000l. annually. It is nine miles in length, and of very unequal breadth; but no where above four miles, and in general ſcarcely two. It is a low iſland, compoſed in ſome parts of rocks, in others of a ſandy ſoil, which produces a rich verdure of graſs, daiſies, and herbs of a fragrancy that is almoſt ſuffocating to thoſe who are not accuſtomed

tomed to it. A fifth part of the iſland is pure ſand, which ſeems to be gaining yearly. About 800 acres are compoſed of rock and moſs. A verdant plain of 1100 acres feeds 2000 ſheep, and the arable lands produce 3000 bolls of grain, moſtly barley; of which 500 bolls might be exported, if there were no ſtills for whiſky. The exports of black cattle, horſes, and kelp, are very inconſiderable.

Some ſpecimens of marble have been ſent to London from this iſland nearly of a garnet colour. The Duke of Argyle has a handſome chimney-piece of it at his houſe in that city.

Here are no hares or deer, becauſe there is no ſhelter to protect them; neither are there, probably for the ſame reaſon, any venomous animals upon the iſland.

The number of inhabitants is computed at 2,200, who depend chiefly on the produce of the ground, though the coaſt abounds on every ſide with all the varieties of white, flat, and ſhell fiſh. This diſcovery, ſtrange to relate! was only made in the ſpring preceding my arrival on the iſland, when two farmers realized 60l. in a ſingle boat, after they had finiſhed the daily labours of the field. This good fortune will probably rouſe the

the induſtry of their neighbours; and there can be no doubt of their ſucceſs, eſpecially as the Duke of Argyle is indefatigable in his endeavours to promote that branch upon the very extenſive ſhores of his eſtate.

Having finiſhed my obſervations in Tirey, I took leave of Mr. Archibald Campbell of Mull, from whom I had received much uſeful information reſpecting theſe iſlands, and the beſt means of improving them. I alſo experienced his hoſpitality, and readineſs to accommodate me upon every occaſion during the ſpace of ten days. I took leave at the ſame time of the miniſter, and the principal inhabitants of Tirey, who favoured me with their company to the ferry, where I croſſed the narrow channel to the Iſland of Coll.

This iſland is ſaid to be fourteen miles in length, by two in breadth, though, I believe, its utmoſt length does not exceed twelve miles. It is greatly inferior to Tirey in fertility, being compoſed moſtly of rock, ſome blowing ſand, and a very ſmall portion of arable land; yet a number of black cattle are raiſed here; of which, it is ſaid, four hundred are exported annually. The rent of the whole iſland is only 700l. per annum,

of

of which Alexander Maclean, Eſq. has the principal ſhare. The two extremities are the property of the Duke of Argyle.

No hares, deer, or venomous animals are found on theſe naked rocks.

The iſland is ſaid to contain a lead mine, which has not, however, been wrought. The number of inhabitants amounts to 1100, who form a part of the pariſh of Tirey, and are under the care of a miſſionary.

This iſland has two indifferent bays, and ſeveral ſmall creeks for boats.* One of the

* Sir Adam Ferguſon, Mr. Dempſter, and another gentleman, having had a hair-breadth eſcape near this place, I requeſted of Mr. Dempſter, that he would favour me with the particulars in writing, which are as follow. "We were three "in company, Sir Adam Ferguſon, Mr. Guthrie, and my- "ſelf; all limited in point of time, but meant to have vi- "ſited the Long Iſland, Lewis, and Sky, before our re- "turn. In going from Staffa to Coll, we paſſed Coll's "Houſe by miſtake; and in making for another harbour "there, our veſſel ſtruck upon a ſunken rock, about half a "mile from the land, and ſtuck there for two or three minutes; "but the day being fine, the ſea very calm, and the tide "riſing, we got the veſſel ſhoved off the rock by the ſtern, "after a good deal of thumping on the rock. Very bad "weather for two days confined us to Coll, after which we "ſickened of our expedition, and returned to Strontien in "Loch Sunart, and then to Fort William, after ſailing "about from the 13th to the 23d of Auguſt. The rock is "laid down, but not named in any map. My journal "written

the bays, called Lochachaſtill, lies on the ſouth ſide of the iſland; the other, called Loch Yern, or Loch Irin, * lies on the ſame ſide, and is more centrical. The entrance of the firſt is encumbered with rocks; the ſecond is narrow, and the harbour within is dry at low water. Though theſe bays cannot

" written at the time has this entry—Aug. 17. Thurſday off " Coll, about nine o'clock A. M. ſtruck on a rock about one " mile from Loch Yern in Coll. Stuck about three minutes. " The captain marked this iſland on the map, and called it " Parliament Rock. You'll obſerve, we would have been a " little the better for ſome of your perſevering ſpirit. At " the ſame time, this haſty and partial view of thoſe regions " gave us a better idea of the whole of that country, than " thoſe who have never ſeen any part of it. My opinion " was ſtrongly confirmed, that the people are induſtrious, " the country improveable; that living by means of pota- " toes and fiſh, is very eaſy; and that leaſes to the ten- " ants, and towns with magiſtracy for juſtice and police, " and ſome regulations with reſpect to cuſtom-houſe fees, " clearances, &c. alſo roads of communication to be made " by the public from the eaſt to the weſt coaſt, will be the " means of converting that country into an uſeful part of " Great Britain."

March 23, 1787.

* " There is no good anchoring place in this iſland. In the mouth of Lochachaſtil, above Soay, a ſhip may ſtop in the ſummer-time on five or ſix fathom water, and clean ſand, about one and a half, or two cables length from the ſhore.

" In Loch Irin a veſſel may ſtop, in moderate weather, on the eaſt ſide of the iſland, that lies half a mile up the bay, on three or four fathoms, about the middle of that iſland."

Mackenzie.

not be rendered of any utility to general navigation, they might to be ſo far improved as to enable the inhabitants of Coll to proſecute the fiſheries.

At the head of the former bay is the ſeat of Mr. Maclean, where Dr. Johnſon ſpent ſome days; and here I ſlept in the room where that perambulating philoſopher repoſed himſelf. I too traverſed the iſland from one end to the other, but found very little worthy of notice, excepting the melancholy devaſtations of the blowing of ſand, which has covered ſome good land, and threatens more. Againſt this evil there is no remedy; neither does the iſland admit of any conſiderable improvement: Mr. Maclean propoſes, therefore, to draw the attention of his tenants to the fiſheries, the natural buſineſs of theſe iſlands, and which would ſoon place the natives in more comfortable ſituations.

From this place I propoſed to ſail for Bara, the moſt ſouthern part of the Long Iſland, and famous for the white fiſhery near its ſhores. From thence it was my intention to traverſe that whole range of iſlands

by

by land, as far north as the Lewis. The principal iſlands which compoſe what is called the Long Iſland, are,

	Names of the Proprietors.
Bara	Macniel of Bara,
South Uiſt	Macdonald of Clanronald, and Macdonald of Boiſdale.
Benbecula	Macdonald of Clanronald.
North Uiſt	Lord Macdonald.
Harris	Captain Macleod of Harris.
Lewis	F. H. Mackenzie of Seaforth.

The Long Iſland extends 140 miles in length from Bara to the Butt of the Lewis, and about 32 miles where broadeſt.

The ſouth end of this chain lies at the diſtance of ſixty miles from the neareſt part of the continent of Scotland; and the north end about thirty miles from the main land. Of the channels which ſeparate theſe iſlands, none can be navigated by large ſhips with any degree of ſafety, except that which ſeparates Harris from North Uiſt.

Theſe iſlands on the eaſt ſide are generally rough and mountaineous, conſequently they abound in capacious openings or bays, where all the Britiſh navy might ride ſecurely. The weſt ſide is generally level, ſandy, and fruit-

ful

ful in oats and barley.* In ſome of the plains there is a luxuriancy of fine graſs, herbs, and flowers; but unfortunately, the ſea, and ſands, are making continual depredations thereon, which no efforts can prevent. The ſea has, however, made retribution for its incroachments upon thoſe fine plains, in the article of kelp, of an excellent quality, and greater in quantity than is found elſewhere amongſt the Hebrides; inſomuch, that in 1784, the eſtate of Clanronald produced nine hundred tons.

In my voyage thither, I propoſed to ſteer by the north end of Coll, that I might have an opportunity of viſiting the iſland of Canay, the only ſmall iſland in the Hebrides that has any claim to a village on the plan, and out of the fund of the Britiſh Society. This iſland is the ſole property of Clanronald; it is three miles in length, by one in breadth; very fertile; and contains about two hundred inhabitants, who are moſtly Roman Catholics. It lies fifteen miles weſt from the ſouth end of Sky, thirty miles eaſt from Bara

* I have been informed, that in North Uiſt, one-fourth peck of barley produced ſixteen pecks; ſeven and a half pecks produced four bolls; and that a grain of barley in this iſland produces twelve ears.

Bara, and directly in the track of ſhipping to and from the Baltic. It is ſurrounded by fiſhing banks, and having a harbour * ſufficient to contain ſhips of burden, ſuch veſſels as cannot make the harbours of the Long Iſland on one ſide, or Tobirmory on the other, generally run for Canay.

The diſtance between the ſouth-eaſt ſide of Coll and Bara, by the courſe I propoſed to take, is a navigation of more than ſeventy miles, upon the main ocean. The only boat upon Coll, in which any perſon, except thoſe amphibious animals the Highland fiſhers, would venture himſelf, belonged to Mr. Maclean, and had been taken to Sky by his family, who were upon a viſit. In this dilemma, a venerable old man offered, with a degree of frankneſs that I little expected, to carry me in his veſſel to Bara, or wherever I might think proper to go; not only ſo, " but faith," ſaid he, " I can introduce you to any family in the " Long Iſland, for every body knows Wil- " liam Macdonald, who has been a fiſher " theſe five and forty years, and was always " reſpected

* " The harbour of Cana is ſmall, but pretty well ſheltered, and commodiouſly ſituated for veſſels bound either northward or ſouthward; and on that account is more frequented than any of the harbours in that neighbourhood." *Mackenzie.*

" reſpected by the firſt lairds in the High-
" lands.—I ſaw your book," added he, " in
" the Iſle of Sky : O ! how you have
" trimmed that ****** *****! *He* talk
" of fiſhing ! he knows more about cuſ-
" tom-houſe fees, and how to harraſs induſ-
" trious men who toil at ſea; throwing out
" his gibes by a good fire ſide, with the wine
" bottle before him. If you can be ready
" to go to-morrow morning, we'll get out
" with the ebb tide; our harbour is none
" of the beſt, but leave that matter to old
" Macdonald, who knows it weel."

This old man commenced herring fiſher in 1742, and by his indefatigable attention, and great experience, realiſed 7000l. a much greater ſum than any perſon in the weſt of Scotland had acquired by that profeſſion only. He had in latter times, four good ſailing veſſels, with which he went to the fiſhing every ſeaſon; and he became ſo well acquainted with the appearances of the approach of the herrings at one loch, and of their departure for another, that he was often ſucceſsful, when other veſſels went away empty. He had alſo acquired a more perfect knowledge of the coaſt of the Highlands than any perſon

living, excepting Mr. Mackenzie, who founded the whole of it.

Being thus a complete maſter of the fiſhing trade, and of the very hazardous navigations of theſe ſeas, he became at laſt a guide to the whole buſs fleet, in whatever related to ſailing, fiſhing, curing, and the markets. "When I came out of any loch," ſaid he, "they uſed to ſay, There goes Macdonald, "let us weigh our anchors, there's nothing "more in this place for us. Then the ſwifteſt "among them would try to keep up with "us, but we ſcudded awaw like birds, and "laughed at the beſt of them. I have ſeen "fifty ſail crouding after us, as if they had "been in purſuit of the Monſeers. Then I "hauled down a ſail to give them time to "bear up, for they had as good a right to "the herring as myſelf: I ſhowed them "the way, as if they had been my own "children.—But I ſhould not ſpeak of "children; I have been ruined by my "children. My two daughters married two "brothers, who dabbled too far in the "American trade, and were often oblig-"ed to me for aſſiſtance. At laſt, by cau-"tionary, and by money advanced them

"at

" at different times, I loſt every ſhilling;
" was put into priſon; and am now obliged,
" at the age of ſeventy years, to go to ſea
" again for a poor livelihood. The laird of
" Boiſdale, good gentleman, has let me have
" a ſmall veſſel for 100l. though worth 200l.
" which I am to pay when I am able. I
" take a freight, or any thing that offers.
" But I am now too old for this buſineſs;
" an arm chair would be more agreeable."

This being the hiſtory of poor old Macdonald, he is always a welcome gueſt at the ſeats of hoſpitality in the Highlands; and here I found him in Mr. Maclean's houſe, where he enjoyed all the conveniencies of one of the family.

His veſſel being a good ſailer, and in good condition, I embraced the opportunity, and agreed to embark with him at five in the morning. The night being very boiſterous, a leſs determined paſſenger would have made that circumſtance an excuſe for ſpending another day with Mr. Maclean. The morning proved coarſe and hazy, attended with rain. Mr. Maclean inſiſted on my drinking tea before I went on board; favoured me with his company to the ſhore, and ſent two

of his people to aſſiſt in working the veſſel out.

Mr. Macdonald was now in his proper element. His ſtation was at the helm. The morning was ſqually, and we were ſurrounded with detached rocks, ſome above, and ſome under the water. His eyes, keen as thoſe of an eagle, were every where; and his tongue never ceaſed in directing the management of the ropes and ſails.

After we had got fairly out, I began to look into my lodgings below, where I found a hamper filled with wild fowl, chickens, and veal, with wine, rum, ſugar, tea, bread, butter, &c. "Ay, ſaid Macdonald, the "laird would not have acted like himſelf, "if he had done otherwiſe; they are a "choice family. I have known his father "theſe forty years, and a better man never "lived."

When we had got to the north point of Coll, Mr. Macdonald ſaid, it would be hazardous to attempt Canay in an evening which ſeemed inclinable to fog. We therefore puſhed for any harbour we could make in Rum, Egg, or Muck, which lie contiguous, and near the ſouth end of Sky.

RUM is a conſiderable iſland, or rather one continued rock, of nearly thirty miles in circumference. It is the property of Mr. Maclean of Coll; contains 300 inhabitants; grazes cattle and ſheep; pays 200l. rent annually; but has neither kelp, free-ſtone, nor lime.

MUCK belongs to Donald Maclean, Eſq. is nearly two miles in length, by one in width. It is moſtly arable, and exports ſome barley, oats, potatoes, and cattle. The number of people amount to 253, who pay 200l, of rent, excluſive of twenty tons of kelp, every third year.

EGG is the property of Mr. Macdonald; and is conſiderably larger than Muck, but not ſo fruitful. In theſe iſlands there are ſome anchoring places, but no good harbours.

The courſe we took lay between Rum, on the left, and Egg and Muck, on the right. We had perceived all theſe iſlands, at intervals, through the day; but when we advanced near them, they totally diſappeared, with every object excepting the water immediately around us.

Mr. Macdonald took the charge of the helm, and ſteered by means of the compaſs, through the channel between Rum and Egg, which is only five miles acroſs. We ſailed ſome time in this courſe, expecting every moment to ſee land; but we remained wrapt up in impenetrable darkneſs. Our only guide was the compaſs, and a diſtant ſound of waters. Our crew conſiſted of Macdonald and two men; of whom, Macdonald and one of the men were ſo deaf, that they could not hear theſe ſounds. The other ſailor and myſelf were therefore to form conjectures, and to make our report to Macdonald, who was looking anxiouſly around him for land. "We are out of our courſe," ſaid the ſailor; "we are in the open ſea; I hear the ſwell of the Atlantic." Differing in opinion from this perſon, I ſuggeſted to Macdonald, that we muſt be near the breakers upon one or other of the iſlands. The old man kept up his ſpirits, but thought it prudent to go with very little ſail. Night began to approach, and we had no proſpect of ſeeing either the moon or ſtars.

Of all ſituations, that of being among a groupe of iſlands and rocks, in a foggy night,

is the moſt dreaded by ſeamen. When out in the main ocean, though it ſhould blow an hurricane, the veſſel has a chance of weathering it, becauſe there is ſea-room, as they term it, and no danger to be feared, excepting from the violence of the winds, which a good veſſel, ſkilfully wrought, generally ludes. Among iſlands, as thoſe of the Hebrides, where every large iſland has near its ſhores, a number of little ones, and each of theſe being generally ſtudded with rocks, there is danger, on every ſide, of being driven by the winds, or drawn by the tides, upon breakers or ſhoals. Such were the proſpects before us, when Macdonald called out, "Land, land!"

The fog had begun to ſubſide on the ſummits of the iſland of Rum, which ſoon became ſo viſible, that no doubt remained of our ſituation. The ſounds we had heard proceeded from the breakers, and the falls of water from the mountains. Finding ourſelves under impending rocks, of prodigious height, we ſteered to a proper diſtance, and got ſafe into the only road upon this bold coaſt, called Loch Skreſort.

Here we landed, at a ſmall village, in a ſituation not unpleaſant. The people were all

all buſy in packing herrings for their winter proviſion; and more might have been cured, if they had been provided with ſalt. Mr. Maclean, the proprietor of Coll, informed me, that he was determined to give the inhabitants of that iſland every aſſiſtance for promoting the fiſheries. I hope he will extend his benevolent endeavours to this bay alſo, by erecting a ſmall key, and ſupplying the people with ſalt and caſks, for which they would pay ready money. By means of this aid, they would furniſh all the inhabitants of the iſland in herrings, or white fiſh, through the whole year. *

At

* Dr. Johnſon did not viſit this iſland, but had his information from Mr. Maclean, the proprietor, and it may therefore be ſuppoſed to be authentic. "The horſes," ſays he, "are very ſmall, but of a breed eminent for beauty. Coll, not long ago, bought one of them from a tenant, who told him, "that as he was of a ſhape uncommonly elegant, he "could not ſell him but at a high price; and that whoever "had him, ſhould pay a guinea and a half." "There are in Bara," ſays the Doctor, "a race of horſes yet ſmaller, of which the higheſt is not above thirty-ſix inches.

"The inhabitants are fifty-eight families, who continued Papiſts for ſome time after the Laird became a Proteſtant. Their adherence to their old religion was ſtrengthened by the Laird's ſiſter, a zealous Roman Catholic, till one Sunday, as they were going to maſs under the conduct of their

patroneſs,

At this place, I was informed that the herrings were in Loch Urn, which was ſaid to be crouded with buſſes and Highland boats.

The tidings of a capital prize in the lottery could not have produced greater pleaſure than this intelligence. I deferred my voyage to Canay and the Long Iſland, in order to enjoy *the ſight*, in Loch Urn; and to learn, upon the ſpot, if all the complaints that I had heard, were well grounded. Beſides perſonal information from the proprietors of herring buſſes, in the ports of the Clyde, I had received ſundry papers, ſtating, that the herring fiſheries in the Highlands were greatly obſtructed by the natives, who, in the night time, cut the nets, and ſtole or cut the buoys which belonged to the buſſes; that to theſe, and other irregularities, were owing, in ſome meaſure, the bad ſucceſs of the fiſheries of late years; that the evil was

increaſing

patroneſs, Maclean met them on the way, gave one of them a blow on the head with a yellow ſtick, I ſuppoſe a cane, for which the Erſe had no name, and drove them to the kirk, from which they have never ſince departed. Since the uſe of this method of converſion, the inhabitants of Egg and Canna, who continue Papiſts, call the proteſtantiſm of Rum, the religion of the *yellow-ſtick*."

increaſing daily, and unleſs a remedy ſhould be deviſed, many induſtrious perſons would be driven out of the trade.

Mr. Macdonald had been bound for the fiſheries, with a view of a freight of herrings, and being thus equally diſpoſed for the voyage, with myſelf, we ſet off next morning in high ſpirits. The day was remarkably fine, which afforded moſt extenſive and beautiful views of the before-mentioned iſlands, on the ſouth; the coaſt of Sky on the north; and the main land of Scotland on the eaſt. We coaſted the whole day, along the fine ſloping edges of Sky, particularly that diviſion of this great iſland, called Slate, which is ſeparated from the continent by a channel of only five or ſix miles. Slate is a good corn and paſture country, very populous, and ornamented by ſeveral neat white houſes, that are inhabited by reſpectable tackſmen. It is one of the moſt agreeable ſituations in the Highlands, for the reſidence of a gentleman. It produces grain; raiſes cattle and ſheep; the hills abound in deer and wild fowl; the ſea in all the varieties of fiſh. While theſe gratify the appetite, the views of magnificent hills, of ſeas, and of veſſels

paſſing

paſſing continually to and from the north, pleaſe the imagination.

In this day's voyage, we obſerved a number of Highland boats, with four oars, and containing, generally, ſix or ſeven men.—They were returning from the fiſhery in Loch Urn to the ſouth coaſt of Sky. The wind being contrary, theſe poor people were forced to labour at the oars from ten to twenty, or twenty-five miles, before they could reach their reſpective huts. They take the oars alternately, and refreſh themſelves now and then with water, though generally in a full ſweat. They ſing in chorus, obſerving a kind of time, with the movement of the oars. Though they kept cloſe upon the ſhore, and at a conſiderable diſtance from our veſſel, we heard the ſound from almoſt every boat. Thoſe who have the bagpipe, uſe that inſtrument, which has a pleaſing effect upon the water, and makes theſe poor people forget their toils.

They were returning to their families, with their little captures of herrings, or with what they were able to buy, and with a very diſproportioned quantity of ſalt, which, in the fiſhing ſeaſon, is generally above their abilities

abilities to purchaſe, and ſometimes it cannot be procured at any price. For theſe herrings, the value of which might not, upon an average, exceed fifty ſhillings per boat, ſix or ſeven men muſt have been from home a week or ten days, in moderate weather, and double that time had the weather been ſtormy, with contrary winds. If ſucceſsful, they do not repine at the loſs of ſo much time, the fatigue which they have gone through, or the dangers to which they have been expoſed, in navigating the main ocean with boats, not much longer than a London ſculler, and many of them, called Norway ſkiffs, about that ſize. But when, after all theſe delays, toils, and hazards, they return without herrings, which is often the caſe, the diſappointment to their half-ſtarved families is eaſier to be conceived than expreſſed, and they have the ſame work to perform again, as ſoon as herrings are heard of, within the diſtance of fifty miles. Even then, diſappointment ſometimes follows; the report may have been falſe, or the herrings may have diſappeared before the people, ſtruggling with contending elements, could have reached the fiſhery. If, at the

ſame

ſame time, theſe people ſhould be thus compelled to wander from place to place, upon the turbulent ocean, through poſitive neceſſity, ariſing from the immediate want of ſubſiſtence, or from the urgent calls of thoſe by whom they had been ſupplied upon credit, with meal and neceſſaries, they muſt, when the fiſhery fails, diſpoſe of their property, and ſhift every one for himſelf; ſome in the Lowlands, and others to inceſſant labour, in the wilds of America.

As we advanced towards the loch, the number of boats that were returning in every direction, plainly announced the departure of the herrings.

About ſun-ſet, we caſt anchor in an open road, at the mouth of the loch, and ſeeing a decent looking houſe, with ſundry huts, at ſome diſtance, Macdonald and myſelf bent our way thither, as if certain of a good reception, of comfortable lodging, and a whole budget of news. When we got to this place, a dead ſilence pervaded the whole village; the windows and doors of the principal houſe were ſhut; we knocked in vain, nothing that had life was ſeen or heard from any quarter. Macdonald, who pretended to a thorough

rough knowledge of the country and people after having explored every hut and corner, declared, that he had never met with ſuch a circumſtance; but in our return to the veſſel, we were informed by a tranſient traveller, that the people of the village had juſt gone to the ſhielings.* By him alſo we learned, that there had been a good take of herrings, and great diſturbances between the buſs-men and the Highlandmen, which, he ſaid, *had driven the herrings out of the loch.*

With the help of a blanket, I made a ſhift to paſs a night on board, accompanied by a whole corps of theſe nocturnal diſturbers of the peace, called light infantry. Next morning proved fine, and by five o'clock we were under ſail, with a head wind. This did not, however, prevent us from working up the loch, by tacking from ſide to ſide; which afforded me a complete view of the tremendous mountains that bound this noble water. In ſome parts, the ſurface was covered with a coarſe graſs, mixed with heath; in others, with woods that ſeemed to have been

* Huts, or dairy houſes, among the mountains and moors, where the people go in good weather, to make butter and cheeſe.

been ſtripped of their beſt timber. The mountains, as we advanced, increaſed in height, and new woods appeared. At length we caſt anchor, about ten o'clock in the morning, in a ſmall road on the north ſide, called Arniſdale, where we found a moſt welcome reception from Mr. Macleod and good Madam Macleod.*

This gentleman is about eighty-ſix years of age, and Mrs. Macleod is turned of ſeventy. Here I met with that kind of civility and attention which I had often experienced; and finding myſelf thus agreeably accommodated, I made this houſe my head quarters, while I was taking a ſurvey of the loch, and the fiſheries. During a ſhort acquaintance of three days, I had contracted a friendſhip for old Macdonald, which I felt pretty ſenſibly on parting from him at this place. If his ſons in law, who are again in buſineſs, ſhould ſhew no diſ-

* "I ſhall never forget the hoſpitality of the houſe," ſays Mr. Pennant, vol. ii. page 342. "Before I could utter a denial, three glaſſes of rum, cordialized with jelly of bilberies, were poured into me by the irreſiſtable hand of good Madam Macleod. Meſſrs Lightfoot and Stuart ſallied out, in high ſpirits, to botanize; I deſcended to my boat to make the voyage of the lake."

diſpoſitions to maintain, in a decent competency, the man whom their indiſcretions have reduced to the greateſt poverty, I hope that the traders in Greenock, and particularly thoſe concerned in fiſheries, will raiſe a ſmall fund, by means of an annual ſubſcription, and to which the writer of theſe ſheets will chearfully contribute.

DE-

DESCRIPTION OF INVERNESS-SHIRE.

BEING now in the county of Inverneſs, I ſhall, agreeably to my plan, give the outlines of that very extenſive diſtrict.

There are three northern counties, viz. Inverneſs, Roſs, and Sutherland, which extend from ſea to ſea: The medium width is ſeventy miles. Mountains, rocks, and moſs, compoſe the greateſt part of theſe counties: but Nature has made ample amends for the poverty of the ſoil, in the great abundance of fiſh that are found on, or near the eaſtern as well as the weſtern ſhores of this diviſion of our iſland.

The weſt coaſt of Inverneſs-ſhire extends from the point of Ardnamurchan on the ſouth, which divides it from Argyleſhire, to Loch Duich on the north, by which it is divided from Roſs-ſhire. It is indented between theſe boundaries, by ſeveral bays or lakes, as Loch Kintray, Loch Moidart, Loch Aylort, Loch Nanua, Loch Nagaul Loch Neviſh, Loch Urn, and the Bay of Bernera.

The herrings are found occaſionally in all theſe waters; but Loch Urn is the only regu-

lar fiſhing ſtation to which the herring buſſes reſort annually, from the ſouth. But if the continent be deficient in this reſpect, the iſlands which form a part of Inverneſs-ſhire, ſufficiently abound in excellent repoſitories of fiſh, in all the varieties known in the northern ſeas. Theſe iſlands, being ſituated in the main ocean, between Cape Wrath and Ireland, lie conſequently in the very track of the annual migrations that paſs towards the Iriſh ſhores, every year, after the month of June. The cod and ling caught on, or near theſe inſular ſhores, are alſo more numerous, and of a larger ſize than thoſe upon the main. The names of the inhabited iſlands which compoſe a part of this ſhire, are given in page 25, making in the whole forty-four; of which Sky, Harris, North and South Uiſt, are the principal.

This great county is inhabited chiefly by Macleods, Macdonalds, Macphersons, Mackintoſhes, and Fraſers; of whom the Macleods are ſaid to be the moſt ancient poſſeſſors on the weſt ſide. It furniſhes a regiment of fencibles to every war; and a ſtill greater number of men to the marching regiments.

INVERNESS, which ſtands on the eaſtern coaſt, is the capital; and though inconſiderable, it is the only town in that county. It was formerly a place of great trade with Norway, the Baltic, and the Eaſt Country. Its exports were chiefly grain, fiſh, beef, and ſkins. It fell into decay, but is again beginning to flouriſh.

The territorial produce of theſe Highland counties are ſo ſimilar, that it is unneceſſary to repeat them. They conſiſt, as before obſerved, of ſmall black cattle, horſes, and ſheep, from the ſale of which the farmers pay their rents, and ſupply themſelves with meal through great part of the year.

JOURNAL.

ONE of the moſt entertaining ſights at Arniſdale, was the playing of ſalmon within a gun ſhot of the ſhore. They had come into the lake with the herrings, and though a great number had been caught by Mr. Macleod's people, at the mouth of a river, near his houſe, there ſeemed to be no diminution of their numbers: but it may be ſuppoſed, that every fiſh partook of the enjoyment

which leaping out of the ſea, in a fine ſunſhine day, afforded.

The next ſcene was from eighty to one hundred herring buſſes, packing and curing the gleanings of their late captures. Towards the upper part, the loch is divided into reaches or ſections, and in the very uppermoſt of theſe, the herrings are uſually caught in ſixteen fathom water. The entrance into this pond is very narrow, and ſo ſhallow, that it may be forded at low water. In Sweden, the fiſhers block up theſe inner ponds, by means of ſtrong nets, properly diſpoſed at the entrances, and thus prevent the herrings from getting out at full tides. But the Scots fiſhers reject this rational method; and the conſequence is, a ſcene of war and confuſion, in which the buſſes generally looſe their nets and buoys, beſides their chance of herrings, which are driven away by the number of veſſels, boats and nets, that fill every ſpace, in theſe confined waters. They fiſh in the day time, and ſome perſons have been ſeen driving the herrings into the nets with their oars. They frequently intermingle their nets, and are obliged to cut them with knives before they are ſeparated.

The

The ſhore was covered with little hovels, or tents, which ſerve as temporary lodgings to the natives, who flock to theſe fiſheries, and who, in their turn, were full of complaints againſt the buſs-men. This year Mr. Macdonald junior, of Barriſdale, a gentleman of great bodily ſtrength, and who is both loved and feared in this loch, attempted in vain to preſerve peace and good order.

By him I had an invitation to his father's houſe at Barriſdale, a pleaſant little bay on the ſouth ſide of the loch. This gentleman had been in the laſt rebellion, was taken priſoner, and confined nine years in the caſtle of Edinburgh, from which he was relieved through the interceſſion of friends. He lives in ſilent retirement, upon a ſlender income, and ſeems by his appearance, converſation, and deportment, to have merited a better fate. He is about ſix feet high, proportionably made, and was reckoned one of the handſomeſt men of the age.

He is ſtill a priſoner, in a more enlarged ſenſe, and has no ſociety, excepting his own family, and that of Mr. Macleod of Arniſdale. Living on oppoſite ſides of the loch, their communications are not frequent.----

The ſouth ſide of this water is the property of Macdonald of Glengary; and the north ſide, which ſeems to be the moſt valuable, is the property of major general Macleod, the chief of that name, who is now in the Eaſt Indies.

In order to preſerve the trifling crops of grain that are raiſed here, the corn is carried, in wet weather, and as ſoon as it is cut down, into barns built with wicker, where it is dried by means of the ſifting air.

I perceived in Mr. Macleod's garden prodigious quantities of apples, pears, gooſeberries, raſberries, ſtrawberries, currants, and moſt excellent vegetables.

Though Loch Urn has a capital herring fiſhery, it has no other recommendation as a proper ſtation for a town. The hills riſe to a great height on both ſides, and all intercourſe with the inland country is nearly cut off; conſequently there are few inhabitants on this water.

From Loch Urn I was accompanied in a boat, by a part of Mr. Macleod's family, to Bernera, in Glen Elg, a pleaſant country, inhabited by 900 people, having a church, a manſe, a public houſe, with a groupe of

of mean huts, and the moſt miſerable looking people that I had ſeen.

The valley behind is comparatively luxuriant, and finely watered by a copious ſtream, where there is a ſalmon fiſhery. Here, in 1722, were built two houſes, containing 24 apartments, for the accommodation of 200 ſoldiers. Theſe buildings were made, it is ſaid, a notorious job; and their preſent ruinous ſtate, in ſo ſhort a time, ſeems to confirm that aſſertion.

Here I was entertained by the commanding officer, and his whole garriſon. The former was an old corporal, and the latter was the old corporal's wife: the entertainment, ſnuff and whiſkey.

There is a military road from theſe barracks to the eaſt ſide of the kingdom, by Fort Auguſtus, diſtant forty-three miles; and from thence to Inverneſs, the diſtance thirty-two miles.* This is the laſt military road acroſs the kingdom, between the eaſt-

* By this road, though one of the moſt rugged in Great Britain, the celebrated Doctor Johnſon paſſed from Inverneſs to the Hebride Iſles. His obſervations on the country and people are extremely correct, judicious, and inſtructive.

Speak-

ern and weſtern ſeas. From thence northward to the Pentland Firth, the diſtance is from

Speaking of the caſtle of Inverneſs, where it is ſuppoſed, Macbeth deſtroyed his royal maſter, he ſays, " Here is a caſtle, called the caſtle of Macbeth, the walls of which are yet ſtanding. It was no very capacious edifice; but ſtands upon a rock ſo high and ſteep, that I think it was once not acceſſible, but by the help of ladders, or a bridge.

" We were now to bid farewel to the luxury of travelling, and to enter a country upon which, perhaps, no wheel has ever rolled. At Inverneſs, therefore, we procured three horſes for ourſelves and a ſervant, and one more for our baggage, which was no very heavy load. We took two Highlanders to run beſides us, partly to ſhow us the way, and partly to take back from the ſea ſide the horſes, of which they were the owners. One of them was a man of great activity, of whom his companion ſaid, that he would tire any horſe in Inverneſs. Both of them were civil and ready handed. Civility ſeems part of the national character of the Highlanders.

" Near the way, by the water-ſide, [Lochneſs] we eſpied a cottage. This was the firſt Highland hut that I had ſeen; and as our buſineſs was with life and manners, we were willing to viſit it. To enter a habitation without leave, ſeems to be not conſidered here as rudeneſs or intruſion. The old laws of hoſpitality ſtill give this licence to a ſtranger.

" When we entered, we found an old woman boiling goat's fleſh in a kettle. She ſpoke little Engliſh; but we had interpreters at hand, and ſhe was willing enough to diſplay her ſyſtem of œconomy. She has five children, of whom none are yet gone from her. The eldeſt, a boy of thirteen, and her huſband, who is eighty years old, were at work in the wood.

from eighty to ninety miles, where no ſoldier ever appeared for the purpoſe of making roads, excepting

wood. Her two next ſons were gone to Inverneſs to buy meal, by which oatmeal is always meant. Meal ſhe conſidered as expenſive food, and told us that in ſpring, when the goats gave milk, the children could live without it.

"With the true paſtoral hoſpitality, ſhe aſked us to ſit down and drink whiſkey. She is religious, and though the kirk is four miles off, probably eight Engliſh miles, ſhe goes thither every Sunday. We gave her a ſhilling, and ſhe begged ſnuff; for ſnuff is the luxury of a Highland cottage.

"Early in the afternoon we came to Anoch, a village in Glenmoriſon of three huts, one of which is diſtinguiſhed by a chimney. Here we were to dine and lodge, and were conducted through the firſt room, that had a chimney, into another, lighted by a ſmall glaſs window. The landlord attended us with great civility, and told us what he could give us to eat and drink. I found ſome books on a ſhelf, among which were a volume or more of Prideaux's Connection. This I mentioned as ſomething unexpected, and perceived that I did not pleaſe him. I praiſed the propriety of his language, and was anſwered that I need not wonder, for he had learned it by grammar. By ſubſequent opportunities of obſervation, I found that my hoſt's diction had nothing peculiar. Thoſe Highlanders that can ſpeak Engliſh, commonly ſpeak it well. By their Lowland neighbours they would not willingly be taught: for they have long conſidered them as a mean and degenerate race. Theſe prejudices are wearing faſt away: but ſo much of them ſtill remains, that when I aſked a very learned miniſter in the iſlands, which they conſidered as their moſt ſavage clans?"—*Thoſe*, ſaid he, *that live next the Lowlands.*"

"Some

excepting a ſmall party, ſome years ago, near Loch Maree, which road they did not complete.

The

" Some time after dinner we were ſurpriſed by the entrance of a young woman, not inelegant in either mien or dreſs, who aſked whether we would have tea. We found that ſhe was the daughter of our hoſt, and deſired her to make it. Her converſation, like her appearance, was gentle and pleaſing. We knew that the girls of the Highlands are all gentlewomen, and treated her with great reſpect, which ſhe received as cuſtomary and due, and was neither elated by it, nor confuſed; but repaid my civilities without embarraſſment, and told me, how much I honoured her country by coming to ſurvey it. She had been at Inverneſs to gain the common female qualifications, and had, like her father, the Engliſh pronounciation. I preſented her with a book which I happened to have about me, and ſhould not be pleaſed to think that ſhe forgets me.

" We gained ſo much the favour of our hoſt; that, when we left his houſe in the morning, he walked by us a great way, and entertained us with converſation, both on his own condition, and that of the country. His life ſeemed to be merely paſtoral, except that he differed from ſome of the ancient Nomades in having a ſettled dwelling. His wealth conſiſts of 100 ſheep, as many goats, 12 milk cows, and 28 beeves, ready for the drover.

" From him we firſt heard of the general diſſatisfaction which is now [1773] driving the Highlanders into the other hemiſphere; and when I aſked him whether they would ſtay at home, if they were well treated, he anſwered with indignation, that no man willingly left his native country. Of the farm which he himſelf occupied, the rent had, in twenty five-years, been advanced from five to twenty pounds,

The bay of Bernera is open, and expoſed to ſoutherly and weſtely winds, but it is fortunately

pounds, which he found himſelf ſo little able to pay, that he would be glad to try his fortune in ſome other place; yet he owned the reaſonableneſs of raiſing the Highland rent in a certain degree, and declared himſelf willing to pay ten pounds for the ground where he formerly paid five.

"Beyond is a valley called Glenſheals, inhabited by the clan of Macrae. Here we found a village called Auknaſheals, conſiſting of many huts, perhaps twenty, built with dry ſtone, that is, ſtones piled up without mortar. We had, by the direction of the officers at Fort Auguſtus, taken bread for ourſelves, and tobacco for thoſe Highlanders who might ſhew us any kindneſs. We were now at a place where we could obtain milk, but muſt have wanted bread if we had not brought it. The people of this valley did not appear to know any Engliſh, and our guides now became doubly neceſſary as interpreters. A woman, whoſe hut was diſtinguiſhed by greater ſpaciouſneſs, and better architecture, brought out ſome pails of milk. The villagers gathered about us in conſiderable numbers, I believe without any evil intention, but with a very ſavage wildneſs of aſpect and manner. When our meal was over, Mr. Boſwell ſliced the bread and divided it amongſt them, as he ſuppoſed them never to have taſted a wheaten loaf before. He then gave them little pieces of twiſted tobacco, and among the children we diſtributed a ſmall handful of halfpence, which they received with great eagerneſs. The woman whoſe milk we drank, ſeemed unwilling to take any price, but being preſſed to make a demand, ſhe at laſt named a ſhilling. Honeſty is not greater where elegance is leſs. One of the by-ſtanders, as we were told afterwards, adviſed her to aſk more; but ſhe

ſaid

nately aſſiſted by three good bays on the oppoſite coaſt of Sky, viz. Elen Oranſay, at the

ſaid a ſhilling was enough. We gave her half-a-crown, and I hope got ſome credit by our behaviour; for the company ſaid, if our interpreters did not flatter us, that they had not ſeen ſuch a-day ſince the old laird of Macleod paſſed through their country.

" We were told that at Glen Elg, on the ſea ſide, we ſhould come to a houſe of lime and ſlate and glaſs. This image of magnificence raiſed our expectation. At laſt we came to our inn, weary and peeviſh, and began to enquire for meat and beds. Of the proviſions the negative catalogue was very copious. Here was no meat, no milk, no bread, no eggs, no wine. We did not expreſs much ſatisfaction. Here however we were to ſtay. Whiſkey we might have, and I believe at laſt they caught a fowl, and killed it. We had ſome bread, and with that we prepared ourſelves to be contented, when we had a very eminent proof of Highland hoſpitality. Along ſome miles of the way, in the evening, a gentleman's ſervant had kept us company on foot, with very little notice on our part. He left us near Glen Elg, and we thought on him no more, till he came to us again, in about two hours, with a preſent from his maſter of rum and ſugar. The man had mentioned his company, and the gentleman, whoſe name I think is Gordon, well knowing the penury of the place, had this attention to two men, whoſe names perhaps he had not heard, by whom his kindneſs was not likely to be ever repaid, and who could be recommended to him only by their neceſſities.

" We were now to examine our lodging. Out of one of the beds, on which we were to repoſe, ſtarted up, at our entrance, a man, black as a Cyclops from the forge. Other circumſtances of no elegant recital concurred to diſguſt us. We had

been

ſouth entrance of the ſound, diſtant ſix miles; Dunnan Roy, immediately oppoſite, at the diſtance of one mile; and Cailach Stone, at the north entrance, diſtant two miles.

Adjoining to the Bay of Bernera, there are forty acres of low ground, appertaining to the barracks, and conſequently to the public. If a town ſhould be erected on the edge of the bay, this land might ſerve the purpoſe of a common, or grazing park. The income ariſing from it at preſent is very inconſiderable.

There are few places in the Highlands where the benefits of a town would be more generally felt than at this place. Beſides the advantages to the oppoſite coaſt of Sky, and the populous diſtrict of Glen Elg, or as it is called by way of pre-eminence, Glen More, there is another diſtrict at the diſtance of a mile ſouthward, called Glen Beg, or the Little

been frighted by a lady at Edinburgh, with diſcouraging repreſentations of Highland lodgings. Sleep however was neceſſary. Our Highlanders had at laſt found ſome hay, with which the inn could not ſupply them. I directed them to bring a bundle into the room, and ſlept upon it in my riding coat. Mr. Boſwell, being more delicate, laid himſelf in ſheets, with hay over and under him, and lay in linen like a gentleman."

tle Glen, which is alſo fertile, populous, and watered by a fine paſtoral ſtream that ſupplies the neighbourhood with ſalmon.

This place is famous for ſome remains of ancient fabrics, whoſe origin has baffled the enquiries of antiquarians. Two of theſe buildings appear in the form of circular ruins, of whoſe walls ſome feet ſtill remain above ground. Two others are reduced to a heap of ſtones. They are placed in a line upon the banks of the river, on places which ſerved for the purpoſes of obſervation, as well as defence. There are many remains of circular buildings in the Hebride Iſles, as well as upon the main land of the Highlands. Their origin is attributed by ſome, to the Danes, and by others to the ages of the Druids.—Perceiving that the country people were demoliſhing theſe buildings for the ſtones, I threatened to inform the laird of Macleod, to whom this country belongs, in order that every offender might be brought to puniſhment. Upon hearing this, an old man obſerved, that an ancient prophecy was now fulfilled; for it had been ſaid, that "whoever took a ſtone from thoſe buildings,

would

would meet with ſome terrible judgment, and never thrive thereafter."

Mr. Pennant, with his uſual attention to every ſubject of curioſity, has given a particular account of theſe buildings, which, with deſcriptions of the famous Dordanella and other ruins, will be inſerted hereafter.

Bernera, though not frequented by the herrings, is bounded, on both ſides, by lochs where that fiſhery is ſtationary, viz. Loch Urn on the ſouth, and Loch Duich on the north. It is alſo in the track of ſuch veſſels as chuſe to paſs by the inner channels to and from the north ſeas.

My courſe being northward, I had an agreeable paſſage through that part of the channel, called Kyle Ree, which, though no more than a quarter of a mile wide, has a depth of water ſufficient for the largeſt ſhips. Here the flood tide runs at ſeven miles an hour; but at the loweſt ebb, this ſtrait is the uſual paſſage where horſes, and black cattle, are ſwam acroſs, between Sky and the main land; for though this is the principal paſſage to that great iſland, it is not accommodated with a horſe-ferry.—

When

When horſes are to be taken over, they are puſhed off the rock into the water. A ſmall boat with five men attends, four of them holding the halters of a pair on each ſide of the boat. When black cattle are to croſs the Kyle, one is tied by the horn to a boat; a ſecond is tied to the firſt; and a third to the ſecond; and ſo on, to eight, ten, or twelve.

After ſun-ſet I was carried to the houſe of Mr. Macrae, at Ardintoul, on the ſouth ſide of Loch Duich, in Roſs-ſhire, where, though the name of John Knox ſounds harſh in the ear of a Roman Catholic, I met with every civility that a hoſpitable family could beſtow, and to which a prieſt of that perſuaſion, who happened to be there, contributed.

DESCRIPTION OF ROSS-SHIRE

THIS great county extends, as before obſerved, from ſea to ſea. That part which lies upon the eaſt ſea, and along the Firths of Dornoch and Cromarty, abounds in grain, and is very populous; among whom are many reſpectable families. Here are alſo three royal boroughs, Dingwall, Tain, and Fortroſe, with the Port of Cromarty. Dingwall and Tain diſpute the honour of being the head town of the county, and political controverſy runs high in both of them.

But the glory of this part of Roſs-ſhire is its waters, chiefly the Firth of Dornoch, which is navigable at full tides, for coaſting veſſels, above twenty miles from the ſea, and for ſmall boats, nearly twenty miles farther, towards Loch Broom on the weſt coaſt.--Secondly, the Firth of Cromarty, a beautiful ſheet of water, twenty miles in length, and where all the Britiſh navy might ride in ſafety. The water of Neſs, alſo capacious and navigable to Inverneſs. The Beaulie, a branch of the laſt mentioned water.

All theſe waters abound occaſionally in herrings,* ſmall cod, haddocks, ſalmon, &c. But the greateſt fiſhery on the continent of Scotland, and which alone has been proſecuted with ſucceſs, is on the weſt ſide of Roſs-ſhire, in theſe great openings, called Loch Duich, Loch Carron, Loch Kiſſerne, Loch Terridon, Gare Loch, Loch Ewe, Little Loch Broom, GREAT LOCH BROOM, Loch Kennard, and Loch Inver, all of which may be conſidered as ſo many rich mines, to theſe kingdoms. It is chiefly to theſe waters that the buſs-fleet from Greenock, Port Glaſgow, Rothſay, Campbeltown, and other ports upon the Clyde, reſort for herrings, in the ſummer, and ſometimes in winter, through a very hazardous navigation of 200 miles, which forms one of the beſt nurſeries for experienced ſeamen in Europe.

By means of this navigation, and the fiſheries in theſe waters, the royal navy is ſupplied every war with 3000 men, at the moſt

* In the winter of 1786, and the beginning of 1787, the herrings were ſo numerous in the bay of Inverneſs, and in the Beaulic, that any number of veſſels might have been loaded; but the improvident inhabitants had neither caſk nor ſalt. A firkin of theſe herrings was ſent me from thence, of about 900 to the barrel, which were extremely rich.

moſt moderate computation; which number may, with ſome farther aid, and ſome farther regulations in the fiſhery laws, be extended to 10,000 ſeamen. If, to theſe, we add 2000 men for the fencibles, or the marching regiments, the importance of this county will evidently appear.

The inhabited iſlands decreaſe in number, as we advance northward: thoſe which lie in Roſs-ſhire are only twelve, of which Lewis is the principal. That iſland is equal in extent to ſome counties, and its white fiſheries would exceed thoſe on the coaſt of the main land, were they proſecuted with the ſame attention that is given to the herring fiſhery.

The principal names in this great county, are Mackenzies, Macraes, Roſſes, and Monroes; of theſe, the Mackenzies poſſeſs two thirds of the whole lands.

JOURNAL.

TWO or three miles from the mouth of Loch Duich, the waters divide into two branches, one of which retains the name of Loch Duich, and the other is called Loch Loung. On the former are the ruins of Caſtle Dounin, an ancient ſeat of the Mackenzies of Seaforth. Thomas the Rhymer, who lived in that country, and pretended to ſupernatural foreſight, when he ſaw this caſtle in its glory, propheſied its downfal; that it would be covered with graſs, and that the goats would feed thereon.

There ſeems to be a great ſpirit for improvements on the banks of Loch Duich, for which the ſoil is well adapted, and manure is near. Here is much grain, good paſturage, with many fine cattle. The loch is ornamented with a beautiful low iſland, tufted with trees, which adds very much to the fine ſcenery around.

Having already obſerved, that all the waters on the weſt coaſt of Roſs-ſhire are the ſeats of the herring fiſheries, I have only to remark here, that though the herrings in Loch

Loch Urn, which is but a few miles diſtant, are ſo ſmall as to require 1,200 to each barrel, thoſe of Loch Duich, and from thence northward to Cape wrath, are of the ſize of 900 to the barrel in ſummer, and much larger in winter. This ſingularity in Loch Urn, has given riſe to an opinion, that each loch has its own breed of herrings, excluſive of thoſe left there by the ſhoals.

Having examined the ſouth ſide of the loch, Mr. Macrae ſet out with me, in his boat, for Ardhill on the oppoſite ſide, which we made with conſiderable difficulty; but our patience was abundantly rewarded by the uſeful information, and good reception which we received at the manſion-houſe of Mr. Mac Iver, miniſter of that place. By means of theſe communications I am enabled to give the following particulars reſpecting two bays, on the main entrance of this water, which is the more neceſſary, as Mr. Murdoch Mackenzie ſpeaks only of the loch in general.*

* "Loch Duich lies at the north end of Kyle Ree, a narrow part of the channel between Sky and the main. It is quite well ſheltered, the ground good, and being above three miles long, and half a mile broad, at a medium, is capable of a great number of the largeſt ſhips."

Mackenzie.

Ardintoul Bay, on the ſouth ſide, has a clay bottom, and ſixteen fathom water, ſo near the ſhore, that veſſels put one hauſer on land. It is in general a ſafe bay, but open to north-eaſt winds. Here is a freſh water ſtream, but the peat is at ſome diſtance on the mountains.

At Ardhill, there is a bay with fourteen fathom water, and good anchoring ground, but open to ſouth and ſouth-eaſt winds. A key might be built on the weſt ſide of the bay, where veſſels of 200 tons could lay their ſides. Here is a good country, plenty of water, turf, and in the whole diſtrict 1,600 people. Both ſides of the loch are the property of Seaforth; as alſo the diſtricts of Kintail and Loch Elſh, which comprehend all the peninſula lying between Loch Duich and Loch Carron.

Being now conſigned to the hands of Mr. Mac Iver, that gentleman, and a miſſionary clergyman, favoured me with their company to the houſe of Mr. Matheſon, who lives on the north ſide of the mountains which divide this peninſula.

The day was fine, and we were aſſiſted in our aſcent by a ſmart breeze. In climb-

climbing the mountains of the Highlands, I often remarked the ſuperior ſtrength and agility of the natives, to my own. I have frequently been glad to ſit down, all in ſweat, when my friends were ſcarcely ſenſible of fatigue. They ſeem to be formed by nature for marches, and it is ſaid, that in a long march, a Highland regiment will outdoe the cavalry; but, in hot climates, they frequently fall down and expire.

The ridge which we were now croſſing, preſented much improveable land almoſt to the ſummit. The views, on the deſcent northward, were equal to thoſe we had left; they were compoſed of verdant glens, pouring their copious ſtreams into the entrance of Loch Carron.

At Mr. Matheſon's we met with captain Mackenzie of Applecroſs, who had lately returned from the Eaſt Indies, and captain Jeffries, from the ſame country. The whole number of perſons at ſupper amounted to eighteen or twenty, and probably no company ever enjoyed the paſſing hour more agreeably.

How, or where, this numerous company lodged I did not enquire; but I believe it was

in the manner common to Highlandmen, from the days of Fingal to the preſent time, and founded on hoſpitality, or neceſſity, and ſometimes both.

This diſtrict is agreeably intermixed with land and water, and abounds in the produce of both. Here, I embarked in a boat to make the cruiſe of Loch Carron, accompanied by Meſſrs. Mackenzie, Jeffries, and Macdonald the miſſionary clergyman. This loch is equal in beauty to any that I had yet ſeen on the weſt coaſt. The north ſide, which is the property of Applecroſs, abounds in people, and in corn fields, that ſlope gently towards the water.

About two thirds, from the entrance on the north ſide, is Slumbay, with good anchorage, but open to the north-eaſt.* Near this place are, a church, manſe, ſchool, public-houſe, and corn-mill.

The herrings have forſaken this loch for ſome years, but it abounds in ſalmon, which are

* "Loch Carron is large, finely ſheltered, and the ground very good; but the way to it is incumbered with very ſmall iſlands or rocks, and the entrance narrow; ſo that it is not to be attempted with ſafety by a ſtranger. Two or three perches, properly placed, would make the beſt channel ſufficiently plain." *Mackenzie.*

are taken by means of a cruive placed at the mouth of a large river where they go to ſpawn. This practice has become very common in Scotland, and accounts for the ſudden decreaſe of that exquiſite fiſh It has been compared to the good old woman who killed her hen, in order to get at the eggs all at once.

From the head of the loch there is a road to Inverneſs, at the diſtance of ſixty miles, of which the firſt nine miles run through a populous glen. The number of people, from the entrance of the loch to the extremity of this glen, is calculated at 1000.

Many years ago, the Board of Truſtees at Edinburgh purchaſed ſeveral acres of land at the head of the loch, and ſent Mr. Jeffries of Kelſo to inſtruct the inhabitants in ſpinning, weaving, &c. Many ſmall houſes were built, and a number of people were collected together, which gave the place an appearance of a populous, though detached village. The Truſtees built a houſe and ware-rooms for Mr. Jeffries; but the deſign failed, after a great ſum of money had been expended in the experiment. This country is, however, greatly indebted to Mr. Jeffries for

for the example he has ſhewn, and the improvements he has made, in agriculture, gardening, draining, planting of trees and hedges. The ſpot on which he reſides, and to which he has given the name of New Kelſo, was compoſed of heath and bog; it is now divided by hedges, into ſquare fields, and produces excellent crops, which are beheld with admiration and aſtoniſhment by the ignorant neighbourhood. So averſe were theſe people to innovations, and to inſtruction, that Mr. Jeffries was forced to hire ſoldiers from the barracks of Bernera, for the purpoſe of digging, planting, and trenching. Many thouſand acres of improveable land lie ſtill buried under a bed of moſs, which Mr. Jeffries, or his ſon, would bring into agriculture, if they had the land upon a a leaſe of two or three lives.

From this place I croſſed the hills to Loch Kiſſerne, a good fiſhing ſtation, where I found many buſſes, ſome of which I boarded.* The loch does not extend above two miles into the country, and is ſurrounded by almoſt

* "In Loch Kiſhoren there is good holding-ground, and water for the largeſt ſhips; but it is not ſufficiently ſheltered for

almoſt impaſſible mountains, that are ſuppoſed to contain copper mines, of which I ſaw ſome ſpecimens, at Applecroſs. A perſon from England had propoſed to enter into contract for working theſe mines, but he has lately ſhewn a backwardneſs to make the attempt, from which it is imagined, that he has laid the deſign aſide.

The entrance into the loch is obſtructed by ſmall iſlands and rocks; on one of which, an inward-bound herring buſs ſtruck, in my view, but got off with the flood tide.

The BAY of PLOCK, is a commodious, ſafe harbour, for ſmall veſſels, and has good anchoring ground; it lies at the entrance of Loch Kiſſerne and Loch Carron; and here ſeveral buſſes were at anchor, from whence they ſent their boats to the fiſhery in Kiſſerne. This place lies on the road between Sky and Inverneſs, by the way of Loch Carron. The hills abound in wood, but there is a ſcarcity of water in dry weather, to the diſtance

for veſſels in the winter time. The beſt anchorage is near the head of the bay, in eight or ten fathoms; or between the iſland on the ſouth ſide of the entry, and the point next it, on from three and a half to ſix fathoms." *Mackenzie.*

diſtance of half a mile, where there is plenty.

From the great number of people that inhabit Loch Elſh, Loch Carron, Loch Kiſſerne, and the oppoſite coaſt of Sky, a town on ſome of theſe ſhores ſeems indiſpenſibly neceſſary. The ſtation laſt deſcribed, is the moſt centrical to all theſe places for the purpoſe of fiſheries, and is nearly in the general track of ſhipping.

I was much delighted with my diſcoveries on theſe waters; and I contemplated with pleaſure, the improvements that a few years may bring forth, through the benevolent exertions of the Britiſh Society, aſſiſted by the proprietors of the ground. The whole country, for a great number of miles, on the ſouth ſide, belongs, as before obſerved, to Mr. Mackenzie of Seaforth; and on the north ſide, to Mr. Mackenzie of Applecroſs. If we may judge of their future conduct by what has already paſſed, there is great reaſon to hope, that nothing on their part will be wanting for the accommodation and relief of a very numerous people. I heard, while in this neighbourhood, two circumſtances reſpecting

ſpecting theſe gentlemen, that merit particular notice. One of Mr. Jeffries' ſons, who manages Seaforth's buſineſs, had received ſome propoſals from ſouth country ſheep farmers, offering to take all the lands in a certain diſtrict upon leaſe, at double the preſent rent. Mr. Jeffries communicated theſe flattering propoſals to Seaforth, and deſired to know what anſwer he ſhould return. Seaforth wrote him in very few lines, that " he " neither would let his lands for ſheep paſ- " ture, nor turn out his people, upon any " conſideration, or for any rent that could " be offered."

The other circumſtance relates to Applecroſs: That gentleman, perceiving the bad policy of ſervitude in the Highlands, has totally relinquiſhed all his feudal claims upon the labour of his tenants, whom he pays with the ſtricteſt regard to juſtice, at the rate of ſeven, or eight-pence, for every day employed upon his works.

Furniſhed with this agreeable information, I ſet out chearfully for Applecroſs, accompanied by capt. Mackenzie, and others, in a boat rather too ſmall for our intended voyage. Here the channel expands to the width of ten

ten miles at an average, bounded on one ſide by Sky, and on the other by the main land of Applecroſs.

In this channel are the iſlands of Pabbay, Croulin, Longa, Scalpa, Raſa, and many rocks above water.

If our boat was ſmall, the weather was favourable, and the ſea in continual motion with fiſh of the whale kind. The larger ones were perceived at a diſtance, by means of the water which they throw into the air when they breathe, and appears in the form of caſcades. They ramble about in ſearch of the herrings, whom they devour by hundreds at a time; but many are thrown into the air with the water, and thus have a narrow eſcape.

The fiſh neareſt us, were chiefly grampuſſes, returning from Loch Kiſſerne, and ſeemed to be ſearching about for the herrings that had juſt deſerted that bay. They probably conſidered our boat as being upon the ſame buſineſs, and therefore kept cloſe by us for ſome miles, as their guide to the prey. Some, tumbled upon the ſurface of the water, others, leaped fairly out, to the diſtance of two or three yards. Their colours were various, tranſparent, and finely ſet off by a clear

clear ſun. Mr. Mackenzie fired two or three times with lug ſhot, but we knew not with what effect. It is not probable that ſmall ſhot will pierce through their thick bodies of fat or blubber, for we find that it requires the ſtrength of two men to force a harpoon into the ſail fiſh, before it reaches the vital parts.

At length our companions moved towards a ſmall bay on the main land, from which, after a vain ſearch, they immediately tumbled back, and directed their courſe to the oppoſite coaſt of Sky, while we purſued our voyage northward.

It was now time to conſider how we ſtood with reſpect to ſea ſtore, which, upon examination, was both plentiful and good. We made for a rock, of which we took poſſeſſion, till we had finiſhed a hearty meal.

From thence we had an agreeable paſſage to Applecroſs Bay, which is finely ſkirted with highly cultivated fields, and much timber. Many of the trees are of conſiderable magnitude, though upon the edge of the ſea; which confutes the aſſertion, that timber will not grow within the influence of the ſea air.

Other

Other examples will be mentioned in their place.

The houſe of Applecroſs is large, and the garden contains more fruit than the family can poſſibly conſume. It may be ſuppoſed that a part of the fruit is ſent in preſents to thoſe who have none, or that it is given to the poor of the place.

Here, as uſual, is a river ſtocked with ſalmon and trout; the hills abound in deer and game, but there is a want of neighbourhood and ſociety, which muſt render life ſolitary, if not burthenſome, even amidſt the luxuries of nature.

There is however, a church, and a clergyman in this bay, which help to fill up the vacuity. The miniſter is Mr. Macqueen, ſon of the miniſter of that name in Sky, whom Dr. Johnſon imagined he had foiled on the ſubject of Oſſian's Poems. The old gentleman is ſince dead, and the ſon defends his memory againſt the Doctor's pretended victory. It is a well known fact, that there are many poems or ſongs in the Highlands, ſimilar to thoſe that have been publiſhed in the name of Oſſian. It is alſo certain, that the whole country, and all the iſlands, are filled

filled with the exploits of Fingal. That a man of this deſcription, of great heroiſm and ſplendid atchievements, actually exiſted in the Highlands, at ſome remote period of time, the numerous remarkable places that ſtill go under the name of Fingal, is another ſtrong corroborating proof.

As the ſeaſon for viſiting the northern Hebides was nearly ſpent, I reſolved to complete that cruiſe without delay. Mr. Macqueen obligingly undertook to conduct me to the ſeat of Mr. Macleod of Raſay, diſtant about twenty miles, which we propoſed to perform, as uſual, in a ſmall boat. The morning being wet and boiſterous, we covered ourſelves with folds of plaid; and thus equipped, we bore for the ſouth paſſage; from thence we propoſed to go up the ſound between Raſay and Sky. Raſay preſented a bold ſhore, which riſes to the height of mountains; and here the natives have, with incredible labour, formed many little corn fields and potatoe grounds. Theſe heights decreaſe at the ſouth end, where there are ſome farms, and a good looking country.

Being baffled on this coaſt by ſtrong head winds, we puſhed hard to gain a little

creek, where we might land; which having effected, Mr. Macqueen and myſelf ſet out with a guide, for the houſe of Raſay. Mr. Macleod the laird, was ill, and I believe in bed, when we arrived; but during our ſhort ſtay, we experienced the hoſpitality and obliging manners of that family, ſo juſtly celebrated by Dr. Johnſon.

" Our reception," ſays he, " exceeded our " expectation. We found nothing but ci- " vility, elegance, and plenty. After the " uſual refreſhments, and the uſual con- " verſation, the evening came upon us. " The carpet was then rolled off the floor, " the muſician was called in, and the whole " company was invited to dance; nor did ever " fairies trip it with greater alacrity. The " general air of feſtivity which predomi- " nated in this place, ſo far remote from all " thoſe regions which the mind has been " uſed to contemplate as the manſions of " pleaſure, ſtruck the imagination with a " delightful ſurpriſe, analogous to that " which is felt at an unexpected emerſion " from darkneſs into light.

" When it was time to ſup, the dance " ceaſed, and ſix and thirty perſons ſat down

" to

" to two tables in the ſame room. After " ſupper the ladies ſung Erſe ſongs, to which " I liſtened as an Engliſh audience to an " Italian opera, delighted with the ſound of " words which I did not underſtand.

" I inquired the ſubjects of the ſongs, " and was told of one, that it was a love " ſong, and of another, that it was a fare- " wel compoſed by one of the iſlanders, that " was going in this epidemical fury of emi- " gration, to ſeek his fortune in America.

" The family of Raſay," continues he, " conſiſts of the laird, the lady, three ſons, " and ten daughters. More gentleneſs of " manners, or a more pleaſing appearance " of domeſtic ſociety is not found in the " moſt poliſhed countries."

On the other hand, I found this family equally laviſh in their encomiums upon the Doctor's converſation; and, his ſubſequent civilities to a young gentleman of that country, who, on waiting upon him at London, was well received, and experienced all the attention and regard that a warm friend could beſtow. Mr. Macleod having alſo been in London, waited upon the Doctor,

who provided a magnificent and expenſive entertainment, in honour of his old Hebridean acquaintance.

Here, as at the houſe of Coll, and elſewhere, I ſignified a wiſh to ſleep in the room which had been occupied by the Doctor, and was readily gratified in that requeſt.

Till I arrived at this place, no perſon of the name of Macleod had ſubſcribed, on any liſt, to the fund then raiſing by the Britiſh Society. Mr. Macleod ſet the example, and in a ſhort time the few gentlemen of that name contributed nearly 1,000l.

The houſe of Raſay is pleaſantly ſituated near the ſouth-weſt end of the iſland, which is the moſt level part of it. It has an extenſive and excellent garden, and is ſurrounded with foreſt trees of conſiderable magnitude; another proof that trees will grow upon the edge of the ſea, though it muſt be allowed that the channel here is narrow. Immediately behind the houſe of Raſay are the ruins of an ancient chapel, now uſed as the family burying place.

This iſland is full thirteen miles in length, by two in breadth; it contains 700 inhabi-

tants

tants;* has plenty of lime-ſtone, free-ſtone; and feeds great numbers of black cattle, but has no deer, hares or rabbits.

The only appearance of a harbour in Raſay is at Clachan Bay, where Mr. Macleod reſides. On the Sky ſide there are many good harbours, at no great diſtance from this place, and from one another,

Mr. Macleod is the ſole proprietor of Raſay, and of Rona and Fladda at the north end of it, which are only proper for grazing.

As Mr. Macleod was indiſpoſed, and his eldeſt ſon from home, Mr. Macqueen continued his good offices, and embarked with me for Portree in Sky, which lies ſome miles north. On going into our boat I took a final leave of the worthy laird of Raſay, who died ſoon after, and now lies among the remains of a long ſeries of anceſtors, in the above mentioned chapel.

The channel that we were to navigate is bounded on the eaſt, by the high lands of Raſay, and on the weſt, by the ſtill higher lands of Sky, terrible to behold, and which

* Dr. Johnſon ſays fifteen miles in length, and containing 900 inhabitants. But as my information was from Mr. Macleod, who knew every particular of this iſland, I prefer his account.

often ſend forth ſqualls of wind too powerful for veſſels to withſtand.

The entrance of the Bay of Portree preſents agreeable landſcapes on both ſides, with excellent paſture.

At the bottom of the bay there is a church, an appearance of a village, ſome mall craft, and many fiſhing boats. Here James V. of Scotland and ſeveral of his nobility landed, when they made the tour of the Hebrides in 1535; from which circumſtance this fine bay has got the honourable name of Portree. *

It is the only port or harbour to a very conſiderable diviſion of Sky, on the eaſt ſide. From this opening to the northern extremity, a courſe of twenty miles, the ſhore is one continued line of lofty rocks, where no ſhip can find refuge in the mildeſt weather, and where inevitable dangers await the mariners in rough weather.

The

* "The Bay of Portree, off the houſes, is an exceeding good harbour for a few ſhips of any ſize; it is well ſheltered, the ground good, the depth from five to fourteen fathoms, and nothing to fear coming in but a rock, about half a cable's length from Airderachig Point, on the ſtarboard as you enter the anchorage, part of which is always above water."

Mackenzie.

The country around the village of Portree, though mountaneous, is well inhabited; it raiſes much grain, and many cattle. Here the late Sir James Macdonald had marked out the lines of a town, and government, it is ſaid, promiſed to aſſiſt him in the work with 500l. But the death of that gentleman put an end to theſe promiſing appearances; and matters remain in *ſtatu quo*.

As this great iſland claimed a more than ordinary inveſtigation, I propoſed to explore it from ſea to ſea, particularly with a view to information reſpecting its numerous ſalt water lakes, as well as its population, produce, and other circumſtances, neceſſary to be known, in forming an eſtimate of the reſpective merits of each place that communicates with the ocean.

I met at Portree with ſeveral reſpectable perſons, who reſided in the vicinity of that bay, among whom was Mr. William Macdonald, an experienced trader, and well acquainted with the whole buſineſs of fiſhing and fiſheries. From him I received much uſeful information; with him I lodged, and when I ſignified my intention to make the

tour of the iſland, he readily offered to accompany me. I alſo acknowledge my obligations to Lord Macdonald, who had, unknown to myſelf, wrote his ſteward to accommodate me with horſes, and whatever I might have occaſion for.

I had ſeen Slate, Strath, and Portree, on the eaſt ſide of Sky, fronting the main land of Scotland. My buſineſs now lay on the weſt ſide, which fronts the Atlantic and the Long Iſland, the beſt ſeat of fiſheries, and the moſt fertile ſhores.

At this time the inhabitants of Sky were moſtly engaged upon the roads in different parts of the iſland, under the inſpection of the gentlemen and tacksmen, and accompanied, each party, by the bagpiper. Many of theſe people had to travel eight miles from home, and the greateſt part of them were at a loſs for lodgings, excepting that which the cold earth and the open ſky afforded.--- Yet, after all theſe labours and inconveniences, no effectual roads, and much leſs effectual bridges, can be made through theſe bogs and rocks, without the aid of the military, and proper tools. A ſingle company of ſoldiers aſſiſted by the country people, under the direction

rection of an experienced overſeer, would render the iſland more eſſential ſervice in one year, than all the unſupported exertions of the inhabitants can, in ſeven years.

A road had been begun, from Portree, weſtward, and we paſſed 2 or 300 men at work. But the facility of travelling, from their labours, ſoon ended; and though Mr. Macdonald had reſided many years in this neighbourhood, we were obliged, at the diſtance of only four miles from his houſe, to call in the aſſiſtance of a peaſant to conduct us thro' the ſwamps around his farm. From thence we came to a large opening on the weſt, called Loch Snifort, whoſe ſhores were populous and ſeemingly fertile. Here, at the head of the loch, we forded a conſiderable river, in which is a ſmall iſland, with the remains of an ancient chapel, and a burying place. This river abounds with ſalmon; its banks are fringed, for a conſiderable way, with corn fields; and much good land preſents itſelf, in a ſtate of nature, to the hand of the improver. After leaving theſe waters, the country, for ſome miles, is one continued moraſs, ſcarcely paſſable by any mode of travelling.--- Here we ſtruggled, ſometimes on horſeback and

and ſometimes on foot, and arrived at laſt within ſight of that diviſion of Sky, which lies on the ſouth ſhore, called Brackadale. We were now on the ridge of a hill, ſo very narrow as ſcarcely to admit two horſes abreaſt, without danger of tumbling into one of the deepeſt glens to be met with in any country.

This is the channel through which the the tributary rills of the inland heights, unite their force, and roll down a horrid bottom, darkened with trees, till they meet the ſalt water at the head of Brackadale.

Appearances now changed from heath and gloom, to ſeveral navigable bays, edged with excellent corn fields, and well inhabited.--- Here is a church, a ſchool, a corn mill, and what is very uncommon in the Highlands, a ſurgeon.

Wherever there is water and fertility in the Highlands, we generally find ſome remains of antiquity. Here ſtands one of thoſe circular buildings, called *Duns*. Its diameter on the out-ſide, is ſixty feet; within, forty-two; and the remaining height is eighteen.

At

At Brackadale, I was introduced to Mr. Macleod of Ulinish, who, from his great probity, and the reſpect in which he is held, has, in ſome caſes, the duty of a ſheriff impoſed upon him by the inhabitants, to whom he is a father. Here alſo Mr. Pennant and Dr. Johnſon were lodged and accommodated. The lady of the family had not forgot the quantity of tea, which ſhe filled out to the latter, amounting to twenty-two diſhes.

I had intended to proceed to Dunvegan, on the weſt ſide of the iſland; but Mr. Macleod, and other gentlemen, ſtrongly urged a ſhort cruiſe to the ſeat of Colonel Macleod of Talisker,* which ſtands upon the coaſt, ſome miles eaſtward. We had a pleaſant voyage, along a lofty romantic ſhore, abounding in beautiful caſcades, from one ledge of rocks to another, till they were loſt in the ſea immediately below.

Before we could land at the Bay of Taliſker, Mr. Macleod, though extremely corpulent, had, with his uſual politeneſs, reached the beach, from whence we were conducted, through

* This gentleman had ſpent many years in the Dutch ſervice, as did major Macleod, mentioned in page 141.

through a ſmall, but rich valley, to the ſeat of plenty, hoſpitality, and good nature.

The valley receives two rivers, that, after burſting from the mountains on the north and eaſt, unite at this bottom, which they frequently deluged from ſide to ſide. To carry off theſe waters in proper channels, and to drain the ſoil, was reſerved for an obſerver of Dutch improvements; and he now enjoys the fruits of his ingenuity and perſeverance, in the quantity of grain and hay raiſed thereon.

The whole valley is divided by deep, and ſometimes wide ditches, into a number of ſquare fields, and meadows, which form a ſtriking contraſt to the mountains by which it is nearly ſurrounded.

The mountains abound in deer, hare, and wild fowl; the fields in grain, hay, and paſturage; the gardens in fruits and vegetables; the rivers in trout and ſalmon; the ſea in herrings and white fiſh. Such, with the additional circumſtance of a well ſtocked cellar, are the felicities of this very remote and almoſt inacceſſible corner.

While theſe furniſh many of the choiceſt luxuries in life, Taliſker and his lady enjoy the good will of the people around, of which

we

we had a ſpecimen, in their readineſs to convey us back to Brackadale, on a wet day, and againſt a head wind, that would have required the utmoſt exertion of ſix or eight men alternately at the oars.

We poſtponed our voyage till the next morning, which being moderate, we again embarked for Uliniſh, to which place we were accompanied by Taliſker.

In opening Loch Brackadale, we paſſed ſome boats that had been very ſucceſsful in fiſhing cod and haddock, of which they gave us as many as we choſe, with a hearty welcome. Theſe, with a ſalmon that Taliſker had put into the boat, and the good things that the lady of the houſe had provided, ſerved to dine a numerous company, one of whom was major Macleod, who reſided near the road to Dunvegan, and who inſiſted on my ſpending a night with him, in my way to that place.

The country through which we paſſed, afforded agreeable views of hills, corn fields, and waters. Major Macleod is a great improver, and here is an inexhauſtible field, on which he has made ſome ſucceſsful experiments. It is a happy circumſtance for the eſtate

eſtate of Macleod, that a great part of it is let on eaſy terms, to gentlemen of benevolent diſpoſitions, of liberal education, and much obſervation. This circumſtance, with leaſes of two or three lives, or three 19 years, is the ſureſt means of doubling the value of any improveable eſtate, within a reaſonable time.

After a ſhort ride, we reached Dunvegan, the ſeat of Macleod, the chief of that ancient clan, and proprietor of the ſouth-weſt part of Sky, with the lands which lie between Loch Urn and Loch Duich, on the continent. This eſtate has been greatly diminiſhed of late years, on account of debts; and much remains to be diſcharged. Notwithſtanding this circumſtance, the proprietor raiſed no rents, turned out no tenants, uſed no man with ſeverity, and in all reſpects, and under the moſt preſſing exigencies, maintained the character of a liberal and humane friend of mankind.

The caſtle of Dunvegan is ſituated on the head of Loch Foliart, at the diſtance of ſix miles from the main ſea. It is built on a rock, and waſhed on one ſide by the waters of the loch; on the other ſide, it is joined to the land, by a large ſtair, which was lately built acroſs

acroſs the mote. The moſt ancient part of the caſtle is ſuppoſed to be of Daniſh or Norwegian architecture, and is very ſtrong.

Here Dr. Johnſon, who met with the utmoſt civility from the family, made a *faux pas*. Lady Macleod, who had repeatedly helped him to ſixteen diſhes, or upwards, of tea, aſked him if a ſmall baſon would not ſave him trouble, and be more agreeable. "I wonder, madam," anſwered he roughly, "why all the ladies aſk me ſuch impertinent "queſtions? It is to ſave yourſelves trouble, "madam, and not me." The lady was ſilent, and went on with her taſk.

Macleod is at preſent in India, where his valour has raiſed him to the rank of major-general; but his return is ſincerely wiſhed for, by all ranks and deſcriptions of people on his eſtate. In the mean time, the houſe is inhabited by major Alexander Macleod and his lady, a daughter of the celebrated Flora Macdonald, who protected the young Pretender through all his hair-breadth eſcapes, during ſix months, after the battle of Culloden, when wandering among the wilds of the Highlands, where he found ſafety, though known to hundreds of people, whoſe

whoſe fidelity reſiſted the temptation of 30,000l. offered to thoſe who ſhould ſecure him.

Being here upon a Sunday, our company became, after church time, very numerous, and was compoſed chiefly of gentlemen who had been in the army. My object was to puſh the ſubſcription, which I endeavoured to repreſent as a very becoming ſupplement to the ſervice of the day, in which the company readily acquieſced; among whom was the clergyman, who, though his income is only 40l. per annum, beſtowed his mite with great good will.

I could not however ſee the propriety of ſelecting this place as a ſtation for a town, in preference to other places that I viewed, particularly Brackadale.* Neither could I perceive any particular inducement for making Dunvegan the chief reſidence of the family of Macleod, excepting the ſtrength which it afforded to the Danes, and afterwards to the chiefs of the Macleods, who are ſuppoſed to be the deſcendants of the Daniſh vice-roys.

The

* "Loch Brackadale is a large bay, containing ſeveral branches, or leſſer lochs, within, that make exceeding good harbours."

Mackenzie.

The country is barren, and almoſt unimproveable, the people are few in number; and this part of the bay is out of the track of ſhipping, and ſeldom frequented by the herring ſhoals. Some gentlemen in company, who were of the ſame opinion with myſelf, mentioned Loch Bay, as greatly ſuperior to Dunvegan.

I had propoſed to ſail for the Long Iſland, by a packet that goes from Dunvegan once every fortnight; but as the veſſel happened to be on the other ſide, I ſet out for Loch Bay, which lies ſome miles north.*

Our company now diſperſed; and here I parted from my obliging conductor, Mr. Macdonald of Portree. Macleod's factor, and other gentlemen, ſupplied the place of thoſe who returned home, and we ſoon reached the houſe of a venerable perſon, aged ninety, who lives at the head of Loch Bay. Here the ſcene changed from rugged moors, and difficult paſſes, to a track of conſiderable fertility, both in grain and paſturage, owing probably to limeſtone which is found immediately upon the ſhore.

" * Loch Bay is a branch of Loch Follart, and is capacious; good holding ground, of eaſy acceſs, and, near the head, on the ſouth ſide, ſufficiently ſheltered from all winds."

Maclenzie

Next day we traverſed the north ſide of the bay, as far as Ardmore Head, which forms the north entrance of this bay, and faces Dunvegan Head, at the ſouth entrance. The diſtance from the head of Loch Bay, to Ardmore, is about four miles. Though the whole, or the greateſt part of it, is under cultivation, there are frequent ſeaſons of ſcarcity, owing, in ſome meaſure, to the great population of this coaſt.

The people are all dabblers in the herring and white fiſheries, which they ſell to a trader in the neighbourhood, in exchange for meal and neceſſaries; yet, ſuch is their poverty, that they are continually in arrears, both with the trader and the factor, though their rents do not generally exceed from ſixteen to forty ſhillings.

The entrance into Loch Bay is ſheltered by Elen Iſa, a verdant iſland, nearly one mile in length, and by ſome leſſer ones contiguous to it. Veſſels may come in or go out by either ſide of theſe iſlands, agreeably to the direction of the winds. The head of the bay is the only proper harbour, formed by the hand of nature; but there are other places towards the entrance, where ſmall piers

piers would make ſecure harbours for boats, and coaſting veſſels, with any wind.

North from this place, at the diſtance of four miles, is Loch Sniſort, the moſt capacious bay in Sky. It extends from Vaterniſh Point to above twelve miles within land; abounds in white fiſh, and is frequented by the herrings. One branch of it, called Loch Griſerniſh, ſtretches towards the head of Loch Bay; and thus the diſtrict between theſe three waters forms a peninſula of eight miles in length. The advantages of this coaſt are many and important. A good country, and very improveable; abundance of lime-ſtone; a numerous people already fiſhermen; waters, harbours, and fiſh, on every ſide; lying in the track of ſhipping which paſs and repaſs through the outer channel, and having an eaſy communication, in moderate weather, with the Long Iſland.

I was informed at Loch Bay, that, at the diſtance of a mile northward, there ſtood a great circular building or caſtle. This, upon examination, appeared to be one of the deſcription before mentioned. It ſtands on high ground, commands an extenſive view

of the coaſt north and ſouth, and is in good condition at the baſe.

At this place we obſerved a boat, crouding round the head of Ardmore, from the ocean, which we concluded was a packet from Clanronald, at Benbecula, in the Long Iſland. I had been detained longer in Sky than I expected, through the civility of the people. I had been diſappointed of a paſſage from Dunvegan, and the equinox was at no great diſtance.

This unexpected opportunity of being conveyed immediately to Benbecula, was therefore conſidered as a moſt fortunate circumſtance. We all returned to the old gentleman's houſe at Bay, and the boat was not far behind.

A ſervant was diſpatched for information. The maſter of the boat was equally inquiſitive reſpecting the company whom he had obſerved returning from the old caſtle; and he ſoon appeared among us, when the curioſity of both ſides was gratified.

He had been ſent by captain Macleod of Harris to bring lime-ſtone from Loch Bay, and he had brought a maſon to quarry it, which he ſaid would take two or three days.

The

The company, at my earneſt requeſt, prevailed on him to make a trip to Benbecula, while the maſon was preparing the cargo; and I engaged to be reſponſible to his maſter for ſo doing. The boat was open; ſhe carried about twelve tons, and had three men, beſides the maſter, whoſe name was Macleod. This affair being ſettled, the company broke up, and I prepared to embark early next morning.

Having now ſeen much of Sky, and heard more, I ſhall cloſe my obſervations with a general deſcription of this iſland.

Sky is the moſt important iſland in the Hebrides. It is computed by Mr. Pennant, Doctor Johnſon, and Doctor Campbell, to be ſixty miles in length, and nearly the ſame in width, where broadeſt. But I believe this calculation is carried too far, both from my obſervations when upon the iſland, and while I coaſted along its ſhores. Its dimenſions are ſuppoſed to be nearly equal to the county palatine of Cheſter.

Though ſeveral veſſels have been loaded with emigrants from this iſland, ſince 1759, the number of inhabitants amounts at preſent to 15,000; ſome of the gentlemen of the

iſland affirm, that there are 16,000 or upwards; 7000 of theſe live upon the eſtate of Lord Macdonald, who, with the laird of Macleod, poſſeſſes the greateſt part of the iſland. The chief of the Mackinnons retains a ſmall part of the laſt domains of that ancient family. Sky is divided into eight pariſhes, to each of which there is a ſchool; beſides three charity ſchools in Sky and its iſles.

The moſt fertile parts lie upon the coaſt; but many thouſand acres of good arable ground might be realized upon the declivities of the inland hills, by means of lime, draining and incloſing. The almoſt inceſſant rains, during the whole harveſt ſeaſon, is, however, a ſtrong obſtacle to expenſive internal improvements; and ſome gentlemen affirm, that grazing of cattle, for which theſe heaths are famous, will prove more beneficial in the ſequel.

The average crops of corn in Sky are 8000 bolls; the exports of black cattle, the largeſt and beſt in the Highlands, are 4000, at from forty ſhillings to three pounds each. Various parts of the iſland abound in limeſtone, excellent marl, potters and fullers earth.

White

White marble, and ſome with a vein of gray, is found near the church of Strath, from which was formed the altar at Icolumkill. The iſland alſo contains free-ſtone, granite, and ſome appearances of coal, particularly at Portree; but the vein does not exceed four or five inches, and the quality is bad. No proper trials have, however, been made by boring to the depth where good coal is uſually found.

But the great wealth of Sky conſiſts in its marine productions. Here are at leaſt twenty bays or lochs, which are occaſionally frequented by herrings, and where many cargoes have been procured by veſſels from the ports of the Clyde, but none by the natives, becauſe they have no veſſels wherein to cure them.

The lakes are frequented by ſalmon, mackarel, white and ſhell fiſh. Without, in the ocean, there are many excellent banks, of which the natives, from the want of ſtout wherries or decked veſſels, are not able to avail themſelvs. Amidſt this profuſion of fiſh, *in

* Immediately before Macleod went to India, one of his principal tackſmen requeſted the honour of his company to dine

all their varieties, the utmoſt exertion of the people ſeems only to procure ſupplies for their own families, and a ſmall quantity of cod, of inferior ſize, and indifferently cured; which, as before obſerved, they ſell or exchange for neceſſaries.

When foundations ſhall be laid for the growth of three or four towns, and when the period arrives which will facilitate fiſheries around this great iſland, by means of decked veſſels, well provided in ſalt, caſk, and experienced curers, the value of Sky will be found to exceed belief. To the navy it will be able to ſpare 1000 ſeamen in every war, which, at the rate of 200 ſeamen for every ſhip of the line, will be ſufficient to navigate a little ſquadron, with men inured to hardſhips, and fearleſs of dangers.

Next to the fiſheries, is the article of kelp, of which the quantity has increaſed to 500 tons annually. Laſtly, ſea ſand of an excellent prolific quality.

With

dine with him; and in order that he might procure a ready compliance, he ſaid that all the diſhes ſhould be of the produce of Macleod's eſtate, and the ſhores thereof. Mr. Macleod accepted the invitation, when he found, among a profuſion of other diſhes, *thirteen* different kinds of fiſh, which had been purpoſely caught upon that coaſt, and its rivers.

With all the natural advantages above enumerated, there is in Sky no commerce, neither are there any manufactures, towns, or even ſhops, except one at Portree.

The morning fixed for my departure proved extremely unfavourable for a voyage of twenty or twenty-five miles, upon the main ocean, in an open boat. It was wet, thick, and boiſterous, with a ſouth-weſt wind nearly from the quarter to which we were bound.---The people with whom I had lodged did not approve of the attempt on that day; but the weather being now broke, I had no alternative.

I was partly deceived, however, by the goodneſs of the bay where the boat was moored, which afforded excellent ſhelter even with thoſe winds that have the greateſt effect upon it. But when we got without Elen Iſa, at the mouth of the bay, we found ourſelves very unequally matched againſt the great ſwell of the open Atlantic. The ſtorm increaſed, and the violence of the rain occaſioned a general thickneſs in the atmoſphere, which ſoon deprived us of any guide from the land, by which to ſteer our courſe.---There was fortunately a compaſs on board, and

and Mr. Macleod, who ſeemed to be maſter of his buſineſs, managed the helm, and gave directions to the men, without ceaſing.

The maſon, who had, for reaſons which I did not enquire into, come into the boat, laid himſelf down upon his back, under the half-deck, and continued in that poſition, with his hands lifted up, and ſeemingly in fervent prayer, through the whole voyage.

I had taken my ſtation near Macleod, at the ſtern, where I was not wholly idle. His attention was much engaged, in obſerving the ſails, and giving directions to the men, who were fully employed, between the rigging and the pump, which they took by turns. My department was to obſerve the approach of every ſucceſſive wave, and to give timely notice, that we might riſe and fall with it, the only means of preſerving us from being buried under a watery mountain. Yet neither Macleod's ſkill, nor my vigilance, could prevent us from getting a bruſh now and then, *en paſſant*, which made Macleod ſtagger, ſet the compaſs a-ſwimming, and knocked myſelf down more than once.

Every exertion was now made by Macleod and his crew, that ſkill and bodily ſtrength could

could perform; and I regretted, even in this deplorable ſituation, the bad policy of obliging ſuch men to abandon their country, and to fly to diſtant regions, for a mere livelihood.

Fearing the men might be overpowered by the unabating ſtorm, and perceiving the impoſſibility of gaining Benbecula, I deſired to be put into Loch Maddie, in North Uiſt, which gave a point of the wind in our favour, and thither we went at a great rate.

At laſt we perceived ſome high lands, which the crew conceived to be near the entrance of the loch, and it proved ſo. Macleod, upon this, ordered the dram bottle to be brought out, of which all of us, except the poor maſon, partook, with ſome ſea-ſtore that my friends had put on board.

When we entered the mouth of the loch, the wind blew with more violence than ever, and being in this direction almoſt a-head, there was no poſſibility of getting to a place where we could land. The day was now advanced, and time was precious. I therefore deſired Macleod to tack about, and run before the wind to Loch Rowdil, in Harris, where his maſter reſided; or, if he could not

get

get in there, to proceed for Stornaway in Lewis, diſtant fifty miles north.

The name of Rowdil was very agreeable to the men, and we gained our point before ſun-ſet. Captain Macleod of Harris, who had often paſſed the Cape of Good Hope, declared that he would rather go there again, than come from Sky, in ſuch a day, withan open boat.

As I had little opportunity of travelling over this iſland on account of the ſtorm, which continued a whole week, I ſhall give a brief deſcription of it, as communicated to me by the proprietor, with whom I ſtaid until the ſtorm abated.

The iſland of Harris, with a number of leſſer ones, and the rocks of St. Kilda, were purchaſed eight years ago from the laird of Macleod, by his kinſman, captain Macleod of the Mansfield Eaſt-Indiaman.

Harris is twenty miles in length, and ten in breadth; it is upon the eaſt ſide moſtly rock, but on the weſt, there are ſome tolerable farms; and the number of people amounts to 2000. It has Lewis on the north, and North Uiſt on the ſouth, from which it is ſeparated by a channel of four miles in width, called the Sound of Harris. This channel

channel is navigable for veſſels of burthen, but it requires a ſkilful pilot. It is the only paſſage between the Butt of the Lewis, and Bara, for veſſels of burthen, paſſing to and from the weſt ſide of the Long Iſland.

The ſound is greatly encumbered with rocks, and iſlands, ſome of which are conſiderable, as Bernera, Pabay, Enſay,* Killegray. Theſe, with Scalpay, Taranſay, and Scarp, compoſe the inhabited iſlands on the coaſt of Harris. Some of them produce good crops of grain, and all of them good paſture.

Harris and its iſlands ſell from 4 to 500 ton of kelp annually; it abounds, on the eaſt ſide, in excellent lochs or bays, and its ſhores on both ſides form one continued fiſhery.

The fiſh on this coaſt, and along the whole ſhores of the Long Iſland, are more numerous, and of larger dimenſions, than thoſe on the

* In this iſland, there was found in a grave, a neat pair of braſs ſcales, and a hammer finely poliſhed.

Martin, who viſited theſe iſlands about the end of the laſt century, ſaw at Hermetra, the foundation of a houſe built by an Engliſh company, in the reign of Charles I. as a magazine for ſalt, caſks, &c. for carrying on the fiſheries in the Weſtern Iſles; but the civil wars, and the death of the king, put an end to the deſign. It was however renewed during the uſurpation, and afterwards in the reign of Charles II.

the oppoſite continent; on which account, two royal fiſhing ſtations were begun in the reign of Charles I. one in Loch Maddie, and the other in the Sound of Harris.

About four years ago captain Macleod came to ſettle in Harris, and fixed upon Rowdil Bay* as the beſt adapted to his views; that place being ſituated on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the iſland, and contiguous to the Sound of Harris. Within the bay of Rowdil, on the north ſide, there is an opening, through a channel of only 30 yards wide to one of the beſt ſheltered little bays in the Highlands; from which, on the oppoſite ſide, there is an opening of the ſame dimenſions to the ſea. This has water for any veſſel to enter or depart at any time of the tide; and captain Macleod has deepened the ſouth

* "Rowdil is a bay at the S.W. point of Harris, [this is a miſtake of the preſs; it ſhould be S. E.] about a mile long, and above a quarter of a mile wide; of eaſy acceſs, the ground in it all clean, and the depth of water ſufficient for the largeſt ſhips. As the anchorage is not ſheltered from all winds, but opened to the S. and to a point or two on each ſide of that, other harbours in this neighbourhood are preferred to it in the winter time."

Mackenzie.

When Mr. Mackenzie made his ſurvey, the paſſage to the inner harbour was not made, conſequently it is not mentioned in his ſurvey.

ſouth paſſage to fifteen feet at common ſpring tides. The circumference of this little harbour or baſon is nearly an Engliſh mile; and here ſhips lie always afloat, and as ſafe as in Greenland Dock. Here the captain has made an excellent graving bank, and formed two keys, one at the edge of the baſon, where ſhips may load or diſcharge afloat, at all times of the tide; the other on the graving bank.

He has alſo built a ſtore-houſe for ſalt, caſks, meal, &c. and a manufacturing houſe for ſpinning woollen and linen thread, and twine for herring nets, which he makes for his own uſe. He has procured ſome Eaſt Country fiſhers, with Orkney yawls, to teach the inhabitants; and has built a boat-houſe, ſixty feet long by twenty wide, capable of containing nine boats, with all their tackling, &c.

He has raiſed, or rather repaired, a very handſome church, out of the ruins of an old monaſtery, called St. Clements. He has alſo built a ſchool-houſe and public houſe; and he is now carrying on good cart roads from the keys to the village, and from thence through the country, to facilitate the com-

communication with the weſt ſide of the iſland. He has done ſomething in the planting way, and he finds that the hazel and ſycamore thrive beſt.

He brought with him the model of a preſs, corn, and fulling mill, to work under the ſame roof; the two latter to go by one water wheel. He alſo brought the iron work for theſe machines. He fitted out a fine cutter, ſounded the coaſt, and found a bank half way between Harris and Sky, where many boats have caught cod and ling. In Auguſt, 1785, he made a trial of the banks of St. Kilda, which lies fifty-four miles weſt from the neareſt land of the Long Iſland. He ſounded thirty miles round the former in every direction, and believes theſe banks to extend ſtill farther, being yet very little known. In June, 1786, he ſent out a ſtout boat, with expert fiſhermen, to make another trial of theſe banks. They met with great ſucceſs, and he recommends a ſmall bay on St. Kilda, (the only one on that coaſt) as a place worthy of public notice, both on account of the fiſheries and general navigation.

Some time before my arrival at Harris, he had received a letter from the maſter of the above

above mentioned boat, wherein he ſays, that they obſerved the whales plowing their way through the ſhoals of herrings that were paſſing to the ſouth, between the Long Iſland and St. Kilda.

He thinks the want of ſucceſs in the herring fiſhery on the weſt coaſt, is partly owing to the cuſtom of looking for them in the lochs only; and ſays, that the buſſes, on their way to the lochs, often paſs over large ſhoals at ſea without taking notice of them, and have been diſappointed when they arrived at the lochs.

In the ſpring of 1786, he propoſed to try the fiſhery on the coaſt of Harris, near his own houſe; but this generous deſign was ridiculed by his tenants, who maintained that he would meet with no ſucceſs, and incur a uſeleſs expence. He perſiſted in the experiment, and caught, between the 10th of March and the 15th of April, 4400 large cod and ling; 4 or 500 ſkate; innumerable quantities of dog fiſh, * large eels, and many boat loads of cuddies.

* Captain Macleod ſays, that the Eaſt India Company are at great expence in procuring ſtock-fiſh from Norway for

He declares that the greateſt bar in the way of every exertion in theſe iſlands, is the high duty on, and vexatious trouble attending the purchaſe of ſalt and coals. As an inſtance of the inconvenience the inhabitants undergo with regard to the latter, he ſtated the following fact.

" I ſent a ſloop loaded with coals from " Greenock to this place; I offered to pay " the duty at the cuſtom-houſe of Gree- " nock, but it was refuſed. The ſloop ſprung " a leak on the paſſage, and the factor on " her arrival thought it adviſable to unload " the coals, but at the ſame time wrote to " the collector at Stornoway, in Lewis, " mentioning the circumſtance, and requeſt- " ing

for the uſe of their ſhipping, which expence is thrown away. That fiſh is ſerved out once a week for dinner, but ſuch is the averſion of the men to this food, that they throw it overboard, and chuſe to faſt till next meal. He thinks that dog-fiſh and ſkate, which abound in theſe ſeas, would be procured at half the expence of ſtock-fiſh, and prove more acceptable to the men. Thouſands of poor people in theſe iſlands live chiefly on dog-fiſh through the winter and ſpring. Skate need not be deſcribed. If theſe fiſh could be adopted inſtead of the ſtock-fiſh, he ſays, that the humours of the ſeamen ſhould be ſtudied reſpecting the name *dog-fiſh*, which, as it would give great offence, ought to be changed. Royal-fiſh, Rodney-fiſh, or any ſimilar name would have a good effect.

" ing he would ſend an officer to ſee the
" coals meaſured, that the bond might be
" relieved and the duty paid, and that he
" (the factor) would defray any expence at-
" tending his journey. The collector re-
" turned for anſwer, that he could not comply
" with the requeſt, as it was abſolutely
" neceſſary that the ſloop ſhould be ſent to
" Stornoway from the port of Rowdil,
" where ſhe had in the mean time arrived,
" and had diſcharged the coals.

" The factor was obliged to ſhip the coals
" a ſecond time, and ſend the veſſel to Stor-
" noway, where they were landed, re-ſhip-
" ped a third time, and brought back to Row-
" dil, not only attended with great ex-
" pence, but with the mortifying delay of
" every work then in hand. This, and like cir-
" cumſtances," ſays he, " are found more grat-
" ing, as government reaps no benefit from the
" tax, as it almoſt totally prevents any coals
" from being brought into this country.---
" Were it otherwiſe, not only the proprietors
" of coal pits would be benefited, but all
" improvements here would be facilitated,

" the fuel of this country not being near ſo " proper."

The winds and the rain having nearly exhauſted themſelves, the captain walked with me up the height upon the ſouth end of Harris, where we had a full view of the ſound, and of its iſlands, in all their glory, with a large extent of North Uiſt.

The view on the eaſt, was a channel of ſixteen or eighteen miles, bounded by the far ſtretching land of Sky; beyond that, the mountains of Roſs-ſhire, juſt perceivable. On the weſt, the great expanſe of the Atlantic, which was bounded only by the horizon.

To one of theſe iſlands the late ſir John Elliot flew for the recovery of his health, after having tried in vain the uſual places of reſort, and every aſſiſtance that waters and medicine could beſtow. For this voyage, he hired a large veſſel at Leith or elſewhere, ſailed round the north coaſt by the Pentland Firth, and ſtretched from thence to Harris, where his old acquaintance capt. Macleod, provided a decent lodging for him in the houſe of Mr. Campbell, a reſpectable tackſ-

tackſman in the pleaſant iſland of Bernera.

Upon his arrival at Harris, he was ſo far exhauſted that he could ſcarcely walk a hundred yards from the veſſel, and his voice was ſo feeble that he could not diſtinctly articulate his words. He began his regimen with goats whey, butter milk, vegetables, and other ſimples. His diſorder lay in his ſtomach, which retained very little of even the weakeſt food or drink; yet was at the ſame time ſo voracious, that he could not be kept from eating almoſt conſtantly, and, with the greateſt deſire, thoſe kinds of food that were the leaſt proper for him. He, who in his practice ſtrictly forbade the uſe of fleſh-meat and butter, could not be prevented, by Mr. Campbell and his family, from devouring quantities of both, which returned inſtantly into a tub placed before him.

He did not, however, neglect the whey, &c. which, with the air of the wide ocean, probably contributed to the change that began to appear in his looks, after he had been four or five weeks upon the iſland.

In proportion as his ſtomach began to retain proper nouriſhment, in the ſame pro-

portion his unnatural appetite abated; and in ſix weeks from the time of his arrival, his health ſeemed to be nearly reſtored. If he had ſet out earlier in the ſummer, and remained at leaſt three months upon ſuitable diet, amuſing himſelf in ſhooting, fiſhing and ſailing among theſe iſlands, it is thought that he would have recovered entirely.

He returned in September, by the north paſſage, to Edinburgh, in a much better ſtate of health than when he left that city, but died ſoon after at the ſeat of a nobleman in England.

I had propoſed to viſit ſir John at Bernera, but he ſailed from Rowdil two days before my arrival. After ſtaying here ſeven or eight days, as before obſerved, I ſet out for Stornoway in Lewis. Captain Macleod, who was not behind the gentlemen of the Highlands in civilities, kindly offered his company thither.

His veſſels being at the fiſheries, one at St. Kilda, and the other at Loch Broom, we embarked in the largeſt boat that remained in the harbour, and were accompanied

nied by a pinnace, well manned, one of whom was equally qualified for managing the ſails, or the bagpipe, which he carried with him.

In our way thither we entered every bay or loch, and found them ſo ſafe and commodious for ſhipping of all ſizes, and of ſuch eaſy acceſs, that the old navigator every now and then exclaimed, " What a " treaſure this would be on the coaſt of " Coromandel!" At other times he lamented the want of ſuch harbours on the coaſt of England. But none of them are comparable, either in magnitude or ſafety, to Eaſt Loch Tarbat, which, with the bays on the oppoſite ſide, called Weſt Loch Tarbat, and the peninſula that divides them, I expreſſed a deſire to explore minutely, and captain Macleod readily acquieſced.

For this purpoſe we landed on the iſland of Scalpay, or as it is ſometimes called, Elen Glaſh, and ſtaid that night with Mr. Campbell, a tackſman under captain Macleod. As this iſland lies immediately in the courſe of ſhips that paſs through the outer channel to and from the Baltic, and being near ſeveral cluſters of rocks, it was judged a proper ſta-

tion for a light-houſe; and in 1786, a bill paſſed for that purpoſe.*

Many perſons with whom I converſed on the north coaſt of Scotland, are of opinion that

* There are other ſtations in this channel where light-houſes are much wanted; as on the rocks of Humbla, or on Hyſker, near the iſland of Canay.

At the diſtance of ſeven miles S. from Tirey, there is a ridge of rocks and foul ground, which run ſeven or eight miles in a S. W. direction, and often proves fatal to ſhipping, particularly to ſtrangers.

Since I am upon this ſubject it may be proper to obſerve, that many intelligent perſons in the north, are of opinion that a light-houſe ſhould have been erected, not on North Ronalſha in the Orkneys, as the bill of 1786 directs, but on the iſland at the entrance of the Pentland Firth, for a guide through that dangerous channel, where veſſels, ſince the publication of Mackenzie's charts, generally paſs.

Still more diſſatisfied are the people, particularly ſeamen, with the preference given to Kinnaird's Head in Aberdeenſhire for another light-houſe, inſtead of Peterhead, about fifteen miles to the ſouthward of the former. A light-houſe at Kinnaird's Head, ſay they, would ſerve only as a guide to a few ſmall veſſels that navigate the Murray Firth; whereas a light-houſe at Peterhead would be a guide to the head lands on the main ſea, coming from the ſouth, and (which is the principal object for a light-houſe on that coaſt,) it would aſſiſt ſhipping coming in from all directions, in avoiding a long and dangerous ridge of foul ground, ſix miles north from Peter head, where many veſſels are wrecked; whereas a light-houſe at Kinnaird's Head can be of no uſe at this place, becauſe it lies round the head within the entrance of the Murray Firth, and where the ground is far too low.

that veſſels are ſometimes run upon rocks, or upon the beach, purpoſely to defraud the underwriters. Mr. Campbell with the utmoſt difficulty prevailed on the captain of an Engliſh ſhip to permit the people of Scalpay to ſave the veſſel, which he was ſteering directly upon the rocks of that iſland. The captain in return deſired his cook to give the Scalpay people, who had launched and manned ſix boats, a piece of beef among them. Mr. Campbell ſuggeſted that the people would conſider their important ſervices ill repaid by a piece of beef only; upon which the magnanimous captain gave them half a crown inſtead of the beef. Such behaviour diſcourages people from offering their ſervices in caſes of unavoidable hazards, and where their fatigues would be better rewarded.

From Scalpay we ſailed up Eaſt Loch Tarbat, accompanied by Mr. Buchanan, a clergyman near that place. The day being fine, we could diſtinctly perceive oyſters at a good depth of water near the head of the bay, and the ſame on the oppoſite ſide.

This noble bay lies twelve miles north from the Sound of Harris; * it is four miles in

* "Eaſt Loch Tarbat is that large bay which is on the weſt ſide of Scalpay Iſland. In the mouth of it there are a great

in length, perfectly land-locked, and has a number of ſmall branches near the entrance, ſheltered by many iſlands, on one of which we perceived two eagles, who ſeemed to ſet us at defiance, and did not move.

We landed at the Tarbat, a narrow paſs which ſeparates the channel on the eaſt ſide of Harris, from the Atlantic on the weſt ſide. This paſs is only 6 or 700 yards acroſs, and the riſe in the center is about fifty feet above the high water mark. The ſoil is moſs of conſiderable depth, but having a declivity on both ſides, might eaſily be drained.

When the herrings are in Weſt Loch Tarbat, the fiſhers on the eaſt ſide drag their boats acroſs the iſthmus; and ſo *vice verſa* when the herrings are on the oppoſite ſide.*

Appa-

great number of leſſer iſlands that break off the ſea, and make this a very ſafe harbour for ſhips and vessels of any ſize; a hundred of which might ride in it eaſily, on good anchor ground, and well ſheltered."

Mackenzie.

* The ſame practice was uſed by the people of Argyleſhire, and the neighbouring iſlands, till lately, at the Tarbat in Cantire, though it is one mile over and pretty high. Having little or no conception of the practicability of a paſſage by the Mull of Cantire in their little boats or birlings, they hired cottagers and horſes to aſſiſt them in their work, and

Apparently, a navigable canal might be made through it, at no great expence; but at leaſt a good ſmooth road might be made, by means of which and a number of horſes, large empty boats, wherries, and even ſmall decked veſſels, might be dragged upon wheels or ſliders from one ſide to the other. Weſt Loch Tarbat* is the only ſafe harbour on that ſide of the Long Iſland, to Bara Head, at its ſouthern extremity. It is properly a great land-locked bay, containing many ſmall bays, and abounding in ſalmon, herrings, white fiſh, and all the other ſpecies found in the northern ſeas, and theſe both large and rich.

Cod fiſh are in their prime, between November and June, when the beſt ling ſeaſon commences, which continues till September. The

and ſoon launched into the ſea at the oppoſite ſide. Though the paſſage by the Mull of Cantire is now become familiar to the Highlanders, they ſtill uſe the land paſſage, at the Tarbat, in very rough weather, or when there is a good fiſhery in Loch Fine.

* "Weſt Loch Tarbat, including the leſſer lochs or harbours on the north ſide of it, is a ſpacious well ſheltered arm of the ſea, where ſeveral hundreds of ſhips of all ſizes may ride ſafe in all weather; for in proper anchoring places it is quite land locked, the depth is moderate, and the ground holds well; but the weſterly winds, eſpecially in winter, ſet a great ſwell into it." *Mackenzie.*

The dog fiſh are taken in fine calm weather, in June and July.

A few huts, inhabited by fiſhermen, form a ſmall village at the Tarbat, and theſe people occupy the whole valley, which is not conſiderable; but there is good grazing on the hills at each ſide. Theſe huts are built cloſe upon the beach of Weſt Loch Tarbat, and here we launched a boat, to make the tour of that bay and its branches.

Mr. Buchanan having an appointment to marry a couple at the end of one of the bays, we were willing to be preſent at the ceremony, and to ſee the dancing. The bridegroom was a young man of that place; the bride and her friends came from Loch Roag, in the Lewis.

The whole company were decent and orderly. Old and young danced, and among the reſt, captain Macleod, who, notwithſtanding his years, ſtepped up to the bride with a gallant air, took her by the hand, and acquitted himſelf nobly upon the floor; but he put the poor woman and ſome others to the bluſh ſoon after. I had aſked him in a whiſper, how he liked the bride; he anſwered in a voice rather loud, that, "ſhe

"was

" was too old; and that he liked her maid " much better." The bride ſeemed to be about thirty-ſix, and his own age ſeventy. His father married at ſeventy-five, had ten children, who are moſtly married, and he died above ninety, when his youngeſt child was little more than an infant.

We returned to Scalpay in good ſpirits, and highly pleaſed with the appearance of theſe natural harbours, and with the adventures of the day.

The iſthmus of Tarbat is generally marked in the maps as the boundary between Harris and Lewis, but this is an error.

The boundary lies farther north, and is formed by two very conſiderable and finely ſheltered lochs, one of which, called Loch Seafort, lies on the eaſt ſide; and the other, called Loch Rheſort, lies on the weſt ſide.— The heads of theſe lochs thus ſtretching ſeveral miles within land on the oppoſite ſides of the iſland, approach within four miles of each other, and form another iſthmus, which is the land boundary.

Having finiſhed our obſervations on the Tarbat and its excellent harbours, we ſet out through the north paſſage of Scalpay, for

for Stornoway, diſtant about twenty-four miles. Soon after we had cleared Scalpay, we croſſed the wide opening of Loch Seafort, and coaſted along that part of Lewis called the Foreſt, which, though no trees grow there, abounds in deer and game.

It is fourteen miles in length, by ſeven, at a medium, in width. Loch Seafort on the ſouth, and a large bay called the Birken Iſlands on the north, approximate within two miles of each other at their heads; and thus the animals of this foreſt might be cut off from the main part of the iſland, by means of a wall carried between the heads of theſe waters.

I believe that Mr. Mackenzie of Seaforth, who is the ſole proprietor of the Lewis, has this in contemplation, with a view to a chace or hunting ground.

The eaſt coaſt of Lewis, as far as the Bay of Stornoway, reſembles that of Harris. It riſes from the ſhore in mountains of ſolid rock, covered in ſome places with a thin bed of graſs, heath, or moſs, where ſmall cattle, ſheep, goats, deer, hares, and moor fowl, pick up a ſubſiſtence.

But if theſe hills be barren, the waters which fill the ſpaces between them are amazingly

amazingly rich. The whole coaſt is a continuation of ſecure bays, and excellent fiſhing grounds, in each of which there are ſome cottagers, who are chiefly occupied in that profeſſion. Similar fiſheries are carried on by the natives in all the openings around the iſland. Captain Macleod has adopted this plan in Harris, and has greatly improved upon it. In every loch, bay, or creek, he ſtations men and boats, proportioned to the extent of each water, who are to fiſh through the whole year when the weather permits. He allows them cottages and potatoe-ground rent free; he furniſhes them with neceſſaries at prime coſt, including the freight; and he takes their fiſh in payment, at the market price.

This conduct will in time line the coaſt with a numerous race of expert fiſhermen, comfortable in their circumſtances, whoſe wants will take off the produce of the neighbouring farms, and gradually raiſe the value of lands.

It ought to be a model for ſome proprietors in the Highlands, who, blinded by the repreſentations of factors, and miſled by their influence, have never permitted their tenantry

nantry to raiſe their heads, and are continually cruſhing them, by new impoſitions upon their induſtry and upon every appearance of improvement; by which they are ſtripped of the fruits of their labour, to which the improver, and not the maſter, has in common juſtice the beſt right. The conſequence of this ſqueezing ſyſtem has invariably proved a fictitious, inſtead of a real rent-roll well paid; and thus each party impoveriſhes and diſtreſſes the other.

When we paſſed the north point of Sky, which divides this channel on the ſouth, the main expanſe opened fully to our view, bounded by Lewis and Harris on the weſt, Sky on the ſouth, the continent on the eaſt, and the ocean on the north. This channel contains a ſurface of fifty-five miles in length, from the north point of Sky to Cape Wrath, by forty upon a medium in width, between the Long Iſland and the counties of Roſs-ſhire and Sutherland, on the main land.

It abounds in fiſhing banks, and its ſhores on every ſide are deeply pierced with lakes, ſome of them extending ten or twelve miles within land, and all of them the occaſional reſort of excellent herrings in boundleſs numbers;

numbers; beſides white-fiſh, flat-fiſh, ſhell-fiſh, ſalmon, mackarel, ſeals, and various ſpecies of the whale kind, which are caught for their oil.

Excepting ſome rocks lying off the north point of Sky, and thoſe near Scalpay for which a light-houſe is now erecting, this channel is entirely unincumbered with ſhallows or foul grounds, and its depth is from 30 to 90 fathoms. When a veſſel enters it from the north, ſhe is directed by the courſe of the winds, in her way ſouthwards. If the winds favour the inner paſſage, ſhe keeps upon the eaſt ſide, and proceeds through the narrow Kyles between Sky and the continent. And when the wind favours the outer paſſage, ſhe ſteers weſtward and proceeds between Sky and the Long Iſland. The ſame regulation is obſerved by veſſels coming from the ſouth.

The width of theſe two paſſages to and from the north is very diſproportioned; the eaſtern paſſage being only a quarter of a mile in one part, while that on the weſt ſide is ſixteen miles. The firſt is called the *Kyles* of Sky, and the ſecond is called the *Minch*; but the main channel above deſcribed,

and to which both of theſe paſſages lead, has no name, though from its being the great thoroughfare of ſhipping, and of the herrings with all their attendants, it has as good a claim to geographical diſtinction as other branches of the ocean: I therefore ſuggeſted in a former publication, that it ſhould be called KING GEORGE'S CHANNEL. The words uſed on that head are copied in the note, with ſome additions.*

Towards

* Though every loch, bay, ſound or creek, however ſmall, has a name, yet this large body of water has no particular appellation. We have an Engliſh Channel, an Iriſh Channel, and a Saint George's Channel, but no Scottiſh Channel; and as this ſea lies immediately within that kingdom, I had reſolved to propoſe that it ſhould hereafter be diſtinguiſhed by that name, upon charts and maps. Contemplating afterwards the beneficent diſpoſition of his preſent Majeſty towards all his ſubjects, without diſtinction or partiality; his confidence in a people who had long been kept at a diſtance from the throne; the ſtill farther indulgencies propoſed in favour of their country, the proſpect of ſucceſs, and the happy change which is likely to be effected thereby during his Majeſty's reign, I wiſh to perpetuate the remembrance of that reign and theſe events, throughout the Highlands, by calling this water KING GEORGE'S CHANNEL; and this, in the name of all Highlandmen of whatever rank or deſcription. And it being the ſocial practice of Highlandmen in all ages, to ſeal, ratify, and

Towards evening we diſcovered land on the north ſide of the bay of Stornoway. This is an almoſt detached wing, called the Point of Aird, that lies off the main iſland, to which

and waſh down every compact or bargain in good ale or whiſkey, let every loyal patriot pay a due regard to the following ſentiments:

The King and Royal Family.

The land of cakes.

May the ſpirit of the Engliſh conſtitution reach every glen, ſtrath, and ſhore of the Highlands, with the Hebride Iſles.

May the improvement of the Highlands and the fiſheries engage the attention of King and Parliament.

Short communications with the Clyde, and the Murray Firth.

The Highland Societies of London and Edinburgh.

The Britiſh Society for extending the Fiſheries, and improving the Sea coaſts of the Kingdom.

All thoſe proprietors who have offered lands on eaſy terms, whereon to build fiſhing ſtations in the Highlands.

The ſpeedy erection of free towns on the weſtern and northern ſhores, where the induſtrious may buy and ſell, not as ſlaves, but as freemen.

The friends of the fiſheries of Great Britain.

May all unneceſſary reſtraints be aboliſhed.

No cuſtom-houſe fees.

Liberal encouragement to buſſes and boats.

Ready markets in Europe and the Weſt Indies.

The wooden bulwarks of Great Britain.

Prince Henry, and the tars of Old England.

May every hardy fiſherman be ready to ſerve his king and country when called upon.

it is only joined at high water by a peninſula of a few hundred feet in width. It is ſix miles in length by two in breadth, and forms a ſtriking contraſt to the ſhores upon the eaſt ſide of the Long Iſland.

It is comparatively a low and pleaſant country, fertile in grain, and excellent graſs. The ſame appearances continued along the north ſide of the bay, as far as Stornoway, and a ſhort ſpace farther.

New objects appeared equally agreeable, upon entering the bay. Firſt, the ſhipping, of which there were thirteen at anchor, one of them 600 tons burthen. Secondly, the town of Stornoway, which being rebuilt with houſes of ſtone, lime, and ſlate, makes a handſome appearance. One wing or ſtreet is built on a narrow peninſula that ſtretches out a conſiderable way into the bay, and adds greatly to the beauty of the landſcape. Laſtly, Seaforth Lodge, which is built on a lawn that riſes gradually from the head of the bay, and being perfectly white, has a good effect.

When we came within the harbour, we were ſorry to perceive that noble port without a key; and it appeared ſtill more ſtrange,

ſtrange, when we were informed that 12 or 1500l. had been granted ſeveral years ago, by the truſtees at Edinburgh for building a ſufficient key, and for raiſing cottages for fiſhermen along the ſhores of the iſland.

Something had indeed been erected here in the name of a key, and even that is ſo much out of repair, that the veſſels load and unload upon the beach, or in the bay, by means of boats.

In the laſt century, ſeveral Dutch families had ſettled here on account of the fiſheries, but they were unfortunately driven away, during the war between England and Holland. Their example had, however, a good effect among the natives, who, from thenceforward, have done more in the way of fiſhing and traffic than all the Weſt Highlands put together.

The late earl of Seaforth, whoſe good intentions far exceeded his abilities, gave every encouragement in his power for rebuilding and extending the town, and he ſucceeded ſo well, that no place between the Mull of Cantire and Cape Wrath contains half its number of inhabitants.

It is divided into two towns, one for traders, and the other for fiſhermen. The firſt is built cloſe upon the beach, and is accommodated with a church, cuſtom-houſe, and a good inn.

Fifty handſome houſes have been raiſed within theſe few years, and new ones are ſtill going forward upon a regular plan drawn out by the preſent proprietor, who favoured me with a copy of it. The ground is granted on perpetual feus, in lots of fifteen to thirty feet in front, and ſixty behind, for a garden, which the inhabitants wiſh to have increaſed to double that ſize, partly on account of the room which their bulky fuel requires. If this could be complied with, the town would increaſe with great rapidity, and abundantly repay, in the improvement of the iſland, the conceſſion of fifteen or twenty acres of ground.

Though the town has ſuffered greatly by the late wars, its ſhipping amounts at preſent to twenty-three decked veſſels, which are chiefly employed in the fiſheries.

That diviſion which is inhabited by fiſhermen and mechanicks, lies at ſome diſtance; the ſtreets croſs each other at right angles, the

the houſes are neat and uniform, accommodated with garden ground, and the whole occupies ſeveral acres of good land.

Seaforth has it in contemplation to rebuild the church, and erect a gaol and town-houſe.

When we arrived at the town, captain Macleod expreſſed a deſire to remain that night at the inn, being unwilling, he ſaid, to dreſs and go among company. This being agreed upon, we ſent a card to the factor wiſhing to ſee him In a very ſhort time after, the good woman of the houſe ruſhed into the room, calling out, "Sea-"forth, Seaforth!" and before we could utter a word, Seaforth, who was at her heels, appeared. I had the honour of introducing captain Macleod to him, and we were carried irreſiſtibly to the lodge.

When I looked from the window next morning, which happened to be very fine, the views were among the firſt that I had ſeen. The ſmall craft were afloat at the head of the bay, with their ſails up to dry after ſome rains; behind, was the point ſtretching acroſs the bay, and covered to the very extremity with neat white-waſhed

houſes. Beyond theſe, in the outer bay, were the ſhipping with their ſails up; while ſome were going out, and others coming in. Upon the north ſide of the bay were ſloping fields of ripe corn; on the ſouth, were lofty hills; and, to crown this matchleſs ſcenery, the far diſtant mountains of Roſs-ſhire conveyed the idea of a country that had been convulſed into a chaos.

When the church and ſpire ſhall be built, with a ſmall ſpire alſo upon the town-houſe, and other ornaments which Seaforth's fertile imagination may eaſily conceive, this place will merit the pencil of the firſt landſcape painter in the kingdom, and be a conſiderable acquiſition to the many beautiful prints which diſtinguiſh the preſent age. I was deſirous to make the tour of this large and unexplored iſland, particularly that great bay on the weſt ſide of it, which contains many leſſer ones, from one of which it is called Loch Roag. Seaforth entered readily into the deſign, as did captain Mackenzie his brother-in-law, and captain Macleod.

A boat was manned and ſtored with proviſions, wine, ſpirits, and malt liquor. The weather ſtill continued fine, and we ſet out

in

in high ſpirits from the harbour of Stornoway for the Birken Iſles, from whence there is a channel that ſtretches within four miles of the loch.

Our deſign was to go as far as we could by water, and to walk from thence to the head of Loch Roag, which, with all its branches and iſlands, we meant to have examined. But though I had the good fortune to be accompanied in this maritime expedition by two experienced ſeamen, Seaforth* and the Eaſt India captain, the deſign proved abortive, and my time did not admit of a ſecond attempt.

I ſhall however mention ſome particulars reſpecting Loch Roag. It lies oppoſite to the bay of Stornoway, from which the neareſt part of it is diſtant about twelve miles. From the beſt anchoring places in theſe two bays,

* This gentleman ſerved when very young in the royal navy. While he was ill with a fever, an engagement happened between the fleet on which he was on board and that of the French, when the noiſe of the cannon totally deprived him of his hearing, under which calamity he ſtill remains. The uſual way of converſing with him is by writing, or by the fingers, at which his family and intimate acquaintance are very expert, and he is equally quick in anticipating their meaning.

bays, to the north extremity of the iſland, called the Butt of the Lewis, the diſtance on each ſide, by water, is from twenty-four to thirty miles, and the whole coaſt from one bay or harbour to the other, amounts to nearly ſixty miles of an open navigation in the main ocean.

In this long and dangerous courſe, there is no place where ſhips, or even boats, can find ſhelter in rough weather. It is a bare open coaſt, the dread of mariners,* and ill adapted for fiſheries. This points out the expediency of a good harbour or port ſomewhere in Loch Roag, both for the advantage of navigation and the fiſheries. Mr. Mackenzie's deſcriptions of the different places where ſhips may ride ſafely in this bay, are too numerous to be inſerted here.

We ſailed, as before obſerved, for this bay, by the way of the Birken Iſles. In coaſting along

* In 1786, an Engliſh Greenland ſhip had been blocked up ſometime by the ice, where, and in their voyage to the Lewis, the men ſuffered incredible hardſhips, which reduced their numbers and obliged them to run into the only bay upon his coaſt, called Loch Tua, or the Broad Bay. Here they were ſtranded, but happily for them, not on a plundering or barbarous coaſt. They were received and aſſiſted by Seaforth and the inhabitants of Stornoway with the utmoſt liberality and humanity.

along we kept in many parts within a few yards of the rocks, where a large fiſh called lyth are generally caught with the hook. They are eſteemed by the natives to be more delicate than cod, ling, or whiting, and they generally weigh ſeven or eight pound. We caught two of them to furniſh an additional diſh at dinner, for which our ſtomachs pointed very ſtrongly.

For this purpoſe it was unanimouſly agreed that we ſhould encamp upon one of the iſlands, where, having arrived at a ſnug little creek, we left a man in charge of the boat, and ſcrambled up the lofty ſhore.

Here all hands were employed in landing the cargo, and carrying it to the place of encampment. Some brought up fire arms; others carried the proviſions and liquors; and the rear followed with kitchen utenſils. The iſland was covered with heath, and a fire was inſtantly kindled under a little rock, where the fiſh was to be cooked. Every man now took his ſtation. Seaforth cut up one of the lyth, which he gutted, waſhed, and put into the kettle.

The department choſen by captain Mackenzie was to attend the kettle and ſupply the

the fire with heath, which being dry, made a fine blaze, and facilitated the buſineſs on hand.

We had laid in a ſmall ſalmon, juſt caught, of which captain Macleod took the charge. Having performed the previous operations, he cut it in ſlices of about half a pound each, whichhe wrapped in paper, put upon a grid-iron, and cooked with great attention, and with great ſatisfaction to thoſe who ate of it.

My office conſiſted in pulling heath for the ſupply of our kitchen, which conſumed no ſmall quantity, and the boatmen had various works upon their hands.

When dinner was nearly ready to be ſerved up, Seaforth ſpread a large table cloth upon the ground; opened his hampers and kantin; laid the knives, forks, and plates; took out his ſtores of cold tongue, tame and wild fowl, roaſt beef, bread, cheeſe, butter, pepper, ſalt, vinegar, pickles, &c. alſo wine, ſpirits, ale, and porter.

Juſt as we were ready to take our places, after the manner of Indians at a feaſt, we eſpied a ſmall ſail ſteering for Stornoway, where colonel Macleod of Sky and his lady had

had been expected with the firſt good weather. The appearance of the ſails confirmed us in the opinion that the colonel was on board, and efforts were uſed to attract his notice and bring him to the iſland.

A blaze was made on the higheſt ground, a gun was fired, and a white handkerchief was hung out by way of a flag; but he kept upon his courſe, and we lay down upon the heath to dine, chearful, and well pleaſed with every object before, and around us.

After this very comfortable meal, we embarked for the head of the loch, and paſſed ſome herring buſſes that were at anchor in ſnug little bays, finely ſheltered by the Birken Iſles; but the day being far ſpent, we landed and took up our lodging for that night in the only houſe where we could be accommodated. Our intention was to embark early next morning, but to our great diſappointment, the weather had changed in the night, from ſerenity to a perfect ſtorm of wind with inceſſant rain, which put an end to our expedition, and preſented to our view a very uncomfortable journey by land to Stornoway, through moſſes and moors now rendered almoſt impaſſable.

We

We encountered the ſtorm with a bold face, and arrived ſafely at the lodge, where we ſoon forgot the toils of the day. Next morning Seaforth propoſed to accompany me, with his factor, to the Point of Aird, formerly mentioned, where I ſaw ſome excellent farms, and a great number of black cattle in good condition; yet much remains of that beautiful ſpot to be improved, which, having a declivity, and being near the ſea ſhore, may be done with eaſe.

I ſhall cloſe theſe partial obſervations, by a general deſcription of Lewis, an iſland little known except to mariners, and its inhabitants. Its main length is forty miles, by twenty-four where wideſt, excluſive of the peninſula of Aird. On the ſouth ſide it is rough and mountainous; but all that great diviſion of it which lies between Stornoway and the northern extremity is comparatively a low country, and contains many good farms. The far greateſt part of this diviſion is, however, moſs and heath, the work of ages to reclaim; and this points out, in language more powerful, and more conſiſtent with common ſenſe than thoſe of a factor or ſteward,

ſteward, the expediency of farming out this great moraſs in ſmall lots, upon the eaſieſt terms, and for two or three lives.

By this means, and by giving every poſſible aid to the fiſheries, and the riſing town of Stornoway, this iſland may in the courſe of fifty or ſixty years double its preſent rent.

The cod and ling, chiefly the latter, exported from Stornoway annually to Dublin, Leghorn, &c. amount to eighty or one hundred tons. Theſe fiſh are very large, ſome of the ling weighing 100lb. There are alſo in this aſſortment, a ſmall quantity of that delicious fiſh called tuſk.

I examined ſome large piles of fiſh at Stornoway, and found them exceedingly white, clear, and in all reſpects well cured. The fiſhery of the iſland has been long monopolized by the factor, who pays the fiſhermen 13l. per ton for the ling, and gets, when ſold upon the ſpot, 18l. When to theſe advantages, we add the various emoluments ariſing from his office, and his traffic in grain, meal, cattle, &c. his place is better than the rent of many conſiderable eſtates in the Highlands. The father of the preſent factor procured a leaſe of that office, *with all its appendages*,

pendages, for a number of years, ſix or ſeven of which are yet unexpired; and it is ſaid that he retired with a fortune of 20,000l. a part of which he has laid out upon an eſtate where he now reſides.

Of the black cattle, as well as the white fiſh, he ſeems to have had a complete monopoly, as appears from a paper * that was put

* Copy warrant Alex. ———, factor to Seaforth.

"Donald,

"You are to intimate to the whole tenants in your diſtrict, who pay rent to the factor, that they muſt ſell no cattle this year, until the rents are paid, to any perſon who has not the factor's orders to buy; and if any one attempt to buy with ready money, you are to arreſt theſe cattle, and not allow them to be carried out of the country until the whole rents are paid up. This, on your peril, I deſire may be done immediately, and any perſon who dares to ſell, after theſe orders are made public, you are to acquaint me thereof. Tell John Moriſon, in Nether Shathu, that it is expected he will buy up a good many ſtots and droving cows this year for us. If he does, it will be obliging, and the ſervice will not be forgot. Write to me when you have obeyed theſe orders.

(Signed) Alex. ———.

Extracted by John Moriſon, late tackſman of Little Berneray."

Copy receipt Alex, ———, 24th Auguſt, 1780.

"Received by me Alex. ———, Clerk of the Admiralty Court of Lewis and Harris, from John Moriſon, Little Berneray, twelve ſhillings ſterling, deducting therefrom three ſhillings allowed for ſalvage, as the value of a barrel of tar

put into my hands by one of the tackſmen formerly in Lewis, but who has ſince taken a large farm elſewhere. A copy of this curious paper will convey a better idea of the condition of thoſe people, whoſe lot it is to live under the deſpotic ſway of certain factors, than any declamation which human feelings can incite. It appears by the date, that the paper copied in the note refers to the late earl of Seaforth's time.

N Lewis

tar found at ſea by Murdo Cook, in the year 1768. Witneſs my hand,

Alex. ———."

Extracted by John Moriſon, late tackſman of Little Berneray.

"That Mr. ———, as factor to Seaforth, was to be kept in firing by the tenants of Lewis, but in place of this, and in name of ſaid peats, Mr. ——— ſerved a good many of the inhabitants of Stornoway, to the value of forty or fifty pounds ſterling yearly,* is alſo certified by John Moriſon, late tackſman of Little Berneray. If Mr. ——— refuſe either the warrant or receipt, I ſhall produce the principals; and as to the article of the peats, if he alſo refuſe it, I ſhall ſend certificates from the people who has bought of the peats of him. You'll pleaſe obſerve, that there has been no arrears of rent in the iſland ſince the year 1752, ſo that there was no proper apology for granting ſuch warrants, as it only meant to ſecure the cattle to themſelves, having forbidden any other perſon to buy, even with ready money."

* *Mr. Moriſon means, that beſides the peats uſed by the factor in his own family, he had a ſurplus which he ſold to the people of Stornoway.*

Lewis is the moſt northern of all the Hebride Iſlands, and next in ſize to Sky. It forms a part of Roſs-ſhire; contained formerly eight pariſhes, which are now reduced to four; and the number of inhabitants is calculated at 9000. About forty years ago, the then factor farmed the whole iſland, for which he paid the earl of Seaforth 1000l. annually. By means of improvements in agriculture, fiſheries, and kelp, of which about 200 tons of an excellent quality is made, chiefly on the weſt ſide of the iſland; with ground-rents of houſes, and the riſe in the price of cattle, the iſland now pays 2500l. neat rent, beſides church dues, &c.

Seaforth's principal reſidence is at Brahan Caſtle, near Dingwall; but he reſides here with his family two or three months every ſummer, where he enjoys more than Aſiatic luxury, in the ſimple produce of his foreſt, his heaths, and his ſhores. His table is continually ſupplied with delicate beef, mutton, veal, lamb, pork, veniſon, hare, pigeons, fowls, tame and wild ducks, tame and wild geeſe, partridges, and great variety of moor fowl. Of the fiſh kind he is ſupplied by his factor with ſalt cod, ling, and tuſk

tuſk; and by his own boat with freſh cod, haddock, whiting, mackarel, ſkate, ſoals, flounders, lythe, &c. Theſe are caught in the bay immediately fronting his houſe, every day except ſunday, and thrown in a heap upon the ground near the kitchen, from which the cook ſupplies the table, and the reſt are given to the poor.

In ſalmon and trout he is ſupplied from the bay called Loch Tua, which flows within a mile of his houſe, on the north ſide.

Being deſirous to aſcertain the extent of the fiſhery at this place, he provided nets and ſet out, accompanied by his family and a croud of people, for the bay, where he commenced fiſherman. The following is a copy of his journal, drawn out by himſelf.

"Auguſt 17, 1786. Hauled only the little pool once. Caught ſalmon 29, trout 128, flounders 1468.

"Auguſt 18. Hauled both great and little pool once. Great pool, 139 ſalmon, 528 trout, a few flounders. Little pool, 5 ſalmon, about 100 trout, and 500 flounders.

"Auguſt 23. Hauled both pools once. Did not count the fiſh ſeparately, but the whole

were 143 ſalmon, 143 trout, and the flounders I did not count, but they were a great heap, about 7 or 800. Every day an immenſe number of herrings, ſprats, and cuddies were caught." From theſe he ſupplied himſelf, and gave the reſt away. But it is to be obſerved, that theſe captures were made after rains that had ſucceeded a period of dry weather.

Such, with the produce of a garden, are the articles which a Highland laird or chieftain has at his table at dinner and ſupper.

Dr. Johnſon, however, gives the preference to the breakfaſt. "A man of the Hebrides, "ſays he, for of the women's diet I can give "no account, as ſoon as he appears in the "morning, ſwallows a glaſs of whiſkey; "yet they are not a drunken race, at leaſt I "never was preſent at much intemperance; "but no man is ſo abſtemious as to refuſe "the morning dram. Not long after the "dram may be expected the breakfaſt, a "meal in which the Scots, whether of the "Lowlands or Mountains, muſt be confeſſed "to excel us. The tea and coffee are ac-"companied not only with butter, but with

"honey,

" honey, conſerves, and marmalades. If " an epicure could remove by a wiſh, in " queſt of ſenſual gratifications, wherever " he had ſupped, he would breakfaſt in " Scotland.

" A dinner in the Weſtern Iſlands differs " very little from a dinner in England, ex- " cept that in the place of tarts, there are " always ſet different preparations of milk. " Their ſuppers are like their dinners, va- " rious and plentiful."

When the Doctor ſays that a dinner in the Hebrides differs very little from a dinner in England, he forgets the great variety of wild fowl and fiſh at the tables of the former, which no people in England, except thoſe of the firſt fortunes, can command; and even few of theſe can procure ſuch variety in equal perfection.

In the Hebrides, and upon the coaſt of the main land, a gentleman can entertain twenty people with thirty or forty different articles, at an expence not exceeding fifteen or twenty ſhillings for eating, which in London would coſt twenty pounds. The gentlemen in the Highlands have alſo the advantage in their wines and ſpirits, owing however, in a great

meaſure, to a melancholly cauſe. Many ſhip are wrecked and broke in pieces upon their coaſts every year, and the floating part of the cargoes is found at ſea, or thrown upon the ſhore, where it is claimed by the proprietor or his factor.

Dr. Johnſon in ſpeaking of a Highland breakfaſt, makes a heavy complaint againſt the uſe of cheeſe at that meal. "In theſe "iſlands however," ſays he, "they do what "I found it not very eaſy to endure. They "pollute the tea-table by plates piled with "large ſlices of Cheſhire cheeſe, which min-"gles its leſs grateful odours with the fra-"grance of the tea." There is another article that is uſed univerſally upon the ſhores of the Highlands, and over the Hebride Iſlands, of which the Doctor takes no notice, viz. broiled fiſh, which muſt have been equally offenſive to him, and for which omiſſion we cannot account.

Having given the particulars of a Highland dinner and ſupper in the principal families, I ſhall complete the bill of fare of the day, by ſpecifying the thoſe of the breakfaſt, viz.

A dram

A dram of whiſkey, gin, rum, or brandy, plain, or infuſed with berries that grow among the heath.

French rolls; oat and barley bread.

Tea and coffee; honey in the comb; red and black currant jellies; marmalade, conſerves, and excellent cream.

Fine flavoured butter, freſh and ſalted. Cheſhire and Highland cheeſe, the laſt very indifferent.

A plateful of very freſh eggs.

Freſh and ſalted herrings broiled.

Ditto haddocks and whitings, the ſkin being taken off.

Cold round of ~~venniſon~~ beef, ~~beef~~ and mutton hams.

Beſides theſe articles, which are commonly placed on the table at once, there are generally cold beef and moor-fowl to thoſe who chuſe to call for them. After breakfaſt the men amuſe themſelves with the gun, fiſhing, or ſailing, till the evening, when they dine, which meal ſerves with ſome families for ſupper.

A packet goes from this place to Pool Ewe on the oppoſite coaſt every fortnight,

and when Seaforth is at Stornoway, once every week. I embraced this opportunity to return to the continent. The veſſel was ſmall, and as I was afterwards informed, in a very improper ſtate for going to ſea, and ought to have been broke up long ſince. She is employed at certain ſeaſons, in tranſporting cattle from Lewis to the Pool Ewe, which had rotted her timbers and bottom. She was at the ſame time in want of neceſſary tackling for a voyage of from forty to fifty miles, in a ſea that lies open to the northern ocean.

The crew conſiſted of the maſter, whoſe name was Macleod, three men and a boy. I found a paſſenger on board whoſe name was Moriſon, a half-pay enſign, who had been priſoner in America during the greateſt part of the war; but whoſe ſpirits ſurmounted his misfortunes.

We ſailed out of the harbour at nine o'clock, in a fine clear morning, with a ſmall breeze, and a ſwell in the ſea that we could not account for, as the weather had been moderate for two or three days.

Among the veſſels in the bay were ſeveral herring buſſes, whom we hailed to know what ſucceſs

ſucceſs they had in the night. One had caught many barrels, and the others, very few, owing, Macleod ſaid, to their being leſs induſtrious.

After we had got half way over, the wind failed us, while the ſwell, which now came from the eaſt or north, ſeemed to increaſe, and to obſtruct our paſſage. We kept ſtill however moving on, and had got within three or four miles of the land, when it became a dead calm; and now we were under the influence of the tides, which carried us too far to the ſouthward, inſomuch that without a briſk gale in our favour, we could not get into Pool Ewe that evening. The coaſt immediately before us, afforded no flattering proſpect, becauſe there were no creeks or openings wherein to carry the veſſel, and the country was an uninterrupted moraſs, for ſeveral miles.

I conſidered the inconveniences of paſſing a a night among the rocks or heath, as no great hardſhip, when compared to the accidents that a high ſwell of the ſea, in a dead calm, prognoſticated. It was evident that ſtrong winds were at no great diſtance. I therefore

deſired

deſired to be rowed aſhore in the long boat, but this was declared to be impracticable.--- We could neither launch the boat, row on ſhore, nor land with any proſpect of ſafety to the boat, or to thoſe on board.

The ſun was going down, and the wind began to riſe ſtrongly againſt us. It was now requiſite to reſolve upon gaining an harbour, either upon the main or the Iſle of Sky. We made for Gareloch, a fine bay, diſtant fifteen miles from Loch Ewe, and partly ſheltered from north weſt winds, by a ſmall iſland at its entrance, called Longa.

Our way was through the north entrance; but before we got there, darkneſs had overſpread the horiſon, and winds increaſed to a to a ſtorm, which obliged us to make frequent ſhort tacks in ſtruggling to get through that narrow channel. In this buſineſs, Moriſon who, like all the iſlanders, had ſome knowledge of ſea affairs, gave conſiderable aſſiſtance. He had amuſed himſelf and us thro' the day with mimicry and ſongs; but when he ſaw danger, he became ſerious, and flew to the work with great intrepidity.

The

The winds ſeemed to ſet our labours at defiance for a conſiderable time, but by great toil and perſeverance, we entered the loch. Here we meant to tack for the neareſt anchoring place, but the night being very wet and dark, it could not be eaſily diſcovered.

The wind blew with a violence ſcarcely equalled in the open ſeas, which brought to my remembrance Mr. Pennant's well conceived words, when ſpeaking of theſe mountainous ſhores: "Here," ſays he, "Æolus "may be ſaid to make his reſidence, and be "ever employed in fabricating blaſts, ſqualls "and hurricanes, which he ſcatters with no "ſparing hand over the ſubjacent vales and "lochs."

Mr. Pennant's obſervations were made in the month of July, when the ſtorms are neither ſo violent nor ſo durable as the equinoxial gales which I had now before me.---My fellow paſſenger had through the day been comparing our veſſel to a log of wood, a clumſy dull tub that would ſcarcely move in the water; but ſhe now revenged the affront in copious diſtributions of ſpray and

waves

waves over his body. The tacks were lengthened out conſiderably, and no veſſel of her conſtruction and condition could perform better. She lay upon her ſide, and ploughed through the furious billows admirably; but though ſhe ſailed many miles to and fro acroſs the loch, we could not make the anchoring ground, and the wind ſeemed to blow if poſſible with more violence than ever.

Our cabbin, if it deſerved that name, was furniſhed with a farthing candle, which afforded a glimmering light, and here Moriſon came ſometimes to reſt himſelf. I perceived him beginning to loſe his ſpirits, and at one time, he ſeemed to be very abſent and full of thought. His manner and converſation were quite altered. Some words that he overheard from Macleod in the Galic language, had been the cauſe of this dejection.--- He ſighed and muttered about the inſufficiency of the veſſel, and the condition of her timbers. The words which Macleod had directed to his people were, as I was afterwards told, " ſtand to it lads, there is more wind " coming."

The violence of the gales, the magnitude and fiery appearance of the waves, the numerous

merous tacks from ſide to ſide, without any proſpect of gaining a place of ſhelter, with the bad condition of the veſſel, the darkneſs of the night and Moriſon's dejection, were ſufficient evidences of our real ſituation, and left little or no hope of ever ſeeing another day.

I had hitherto animated the people to uſe every poſſible means for our deliverance, and they acquitted themſelves with that perſeverance, ſobriety, and ability, for which their countrymen are ſo deſervedly applauded.--- Their ſkill and their toils for ſeveral hours without intermiſſion had proved fruitleſs.--- We were bewildered in darkneſs, amidſt contending elements, with danger on every ſide, without any further hope of eſcaping the fate of thouſands, whom unremitting winds conſign to the deep.

When all efforts prove ineffectual, and when death appears inevitable, it is then time to abſtract the mind from trivial objects; to be collected, unembarraſſed, tranquil, and fully reſigned to the impending ſtroke.--- In this frame of mind, I awaited the ſummons of the angry wave, or the dreadful cruſh upon

upon the beach; put off my wet cloaths and boots, and lay down upon ſuch a bed as the cabbin afforded.

The thoughts that had been uppermoſt, during this ſtruggle for ſafety, related chiefly to the buſineſs that brought me into that ſituation, and which I had been impreſſed with a ſtrong deſire to ſee advanced in a certain degree; nor could I detach my mind entirely from it, when no hope of life was left. It occurred to me, that if immediate death was unavoidable, it were a matter of indifference whether it happened in the open ſea, or in that dreadful loch. The ſeamen were of the ſame opinion; and when I made a propoſal to put out to ſea, and run back to Stornoway, for which the wind was favourable, they readily agreed to it, and obſerved that we had no other chance left.

We tacked about immediately, between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, the wind as high as ever, for a harbour, at the diſtance of fifty miles, through a ſwell now increaſed to the magnitude of mountains. We ſoon cleared the loch, and I repaired again to my lodging, where I lay in ſuſpence till overtaken by irreſiſtible ſleep, which cut

ſhort

ſhort this gloomy night, and once more brought round the light of day, that was juſt breaking. I was happy to find myſelf ſtill in the land of the living, and the wind ſeemingly abated. From the ſilence of the people, and the number of hours that we had been at ſea, I conjectured that we muſt have got into the bay of Stornoway, and aſked Moriſon, who was in the oppoſite bed, if we were near the town? "Town ſaid he, "we are forty miles from it." "Forty "miles! Have we not been ſailing all night?" Yes anſwered he, "we have been "ſailing with a witneſs, but we are no far- "ther than the back of the iſland. When "we got out of the loch, we found the ſea "ſo very high, that we ſhould have foun- "dered in the attempt to croſs the chan- "nel. We were therefore obliged to tack all "night, as near the iſland as we could with "ſafety from the breakers. We are now ſix "miles from it. The wind is eaſier, and we "have the day before us to get back into "Pool Ewe."

This was glorious news, which I ſhall not ſoon forget. I now began to rally Moriſon upon the ſudden change that I had obſerved,

from

from inceſſant mirth to deep dejection.---- He ſaid, that was owing to his being better acquainted with our dangerous ſituation than myſelf. That all circumſtances conſidered, we had not a ſhadow of reaſon to expect deliverance. He then enumerated all the circumſtances that were againſt us, the ſubſtance of which I have already mentioned.

The wind, though more moderate, did not favour our entrance into Loch Ewe, and we were carried or driven ſome miles beyond it, towards Loch Broom. To recover the loſt ground, we were obliged again to have recourſe to tacking, and again it became doubtful whether we could get in on that day. By perſeverance, however, and great attention to the ſails, we entered with a flood tide, and were carried happily to the head of this fine ſheet of water.

Here I waited upon Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, from whom I received much uſeful information reſpecting that country, its waters and fiſheries, a part of which, with my own obſervations, will be given hereafter.---- Having hitherto proceeded geographically, I muſt return to that part of the main coaſt from

from whence I ſet out for the iſlands, and ſhall conſequently inſert Loch Ewe in its proper place.

Before I ſailed for Sky, I had proceeded on the continent as far as Applecroſs. The next opening upon the north, is Loch Torridon, which I now propoſed to viſit, by the way of an inland lake called Loch Maree. This lake lies due eaſt from Loch Ewe, into which its waters fall through a narrow *rapide* or channel called Pool Ewe, from fifty to one hundred yards wide, and nearly a mile in length.

Here I took a boat for a ſmall village at the head of the lake, called Kinloch-Ewe, accompanied by Mr. Moriſon who happened to be going the ſame way. This lake is eighteen miles in length, and it widens at the center to four miles, where it is ornamented with ſeveral woody iſlands. The hills on both ſides are partly cloathed with birch, aſh, pines, oak, &c. but the trees are not allowed to come to any conſiderable ſize, and many thouſands of the largeſt have lately been cut down. They riſe to the very tops of the mountains, gradually falling off in dimen-

ſions, number and vigour, as they advance towards the ſummits, on which we only perceived ſome lonely pines that weather the chilling winds of their elevated ſituation.

Many of the trees, particularly the pines, appeared to riſe out of ſolid rocks, and every ſtone of any magnitude was burthened with at leaſt one tree, and ſeveral young ones riſing from its roots. The trees upon the face of theſe rocks grow in all manner of forms and directions. One ſtands majeſtically upright; another appears with its head inverted like the horns of ſome cattle; a third grows in the form of a tobacco pipe; ſome incline weſt, others eaſt; and the whole make a whimſical appearance.

There is ſome good land on the ſouth ſide of the lake, and ſeveral ſpots of fertile ground on the north ſide, finely ſheltered by mountains of ſtupendous height; but here, as in moſt of the lochs, the largeſt track of arable ground lies at the upper end, where there are many ſmall tenants, one of whom aſked us to take ſuch lodging for the night as his poor cottage could afford, which we declined, as the place is accommodated with a ſmall inn lately built.

trance of Loch Ewe. The breadth of this peninſula to the main opening into Loch Broom, where Mr. Mackenzie reſides, is four miles, and the country very improveable.*

Mr. Mackenzie and his three brothers had been in the army during the laſt war. One of them fell in America, and another in the Eaſt Indies; from which country, a third had returned in bad health, and procured a number of recruits in the Highlands, with whom he was to ſail with the firſt ſhip from London. When I arrived at this place, he was on the wing to depart in a boat to the head of Loch Broom, and from thence by land to Inverneſs; but the roughneſs of the weather had obliged him to wait the iſſue of another day.

The whole family were in diſtreſs, particularly his mother, who having recently loſt two ſons, was anxiouſly deſirous that the other two ſhould remain at home. She intreated, with tears, that I would adviſe this emaciated young gentleman to ſell or exchange

* I believe the proprietor wiſhes to ſell this eſtate, or any part of it, to the Britiſh Society. It includes, as before obſerved, the fine bay at the mouth of Loch Ewe. The preſent rent of the whole eſtate is about 200l. per annum.

exchange his commiſſion, but all arguments on this head proved ineffectual; and he was determined, if the weather permitted on the enſuing day, to bid them a final adieu for a long ſeaſon, if not for ever.

The next day blew hard, but being dry he prepared for his departure, and I propoſed to accompany him as far as Little Loch Broom. We ſet out for the place of embarkation, *en cavalcade*. The captain and his mother made ſlow progreſs; every now and then they made a full ſtop; and when they came towards the boat, the lady ſeemed ſo earneſtly engaged with her ſon, that the people in the boat turned their faces aſide. In this ſtate we remained above half an hour, when at length he broke from her. The eldeſt ſon was to have been of our party to Loch Broom, but the wind continuing to blow freſh, his mother poſitively declared againſt both of her ſons going into the ſame boat on that day.

We had not only a ſtrong, but an adverſe breeze, that obliged us to row along ſhore out of our courſe, in order to gain a point upon the wind, which enabled us to make the entrance of Little Loch Broom.

Here

Here we landed upon a ledge of rocks, took ſome refreſhments, and parted. Mr. Moriſon having been diſappointed in not finding the packet at Loch Ewe gave me his company for ſome days till the packet ſhould return from Stornoway.

I was now bound for the head of the loch by water, and an unexpected friend procured me a boat with much difficulty. Mr. Pennant ſays, that this water is ſeven miles in length, while Mr. Murdoch Mackenzie gives it an extent of little more than two miles;* but the former, who is generally accurate, met with a violent ſtorm here, which might have led him into a miſtake in his calculation.

It is however certainly more than two miles in length; for, after ſailing above an hour, we were obliged through darkneſs to take our quarters at a farmer's houſe, diſtant at leaſt one mile from its head, where we received a hearty welcome, and the beſt entertainment that the houſe could afford. But when I ſaw my bed, I did not (as Dr. Johnſon ſaid on

 ſeeing

* "Loch Beg, or Little Loch Briem, is an arm of the ſea above two miles long, well ſheltered, and good ground, capable of a fleet of the largeſt ſhips. The beſt part of this loch to anchor in, is within a mile of the head."

Mackenzie.

ſeeing his bed at Bernera) expreſs much ſatisfaction.

Next morning the honeſt farmer went with us in his boat to the end of the loch.---The ſhores of this water, on both ſides, are populous, partly arable, and fringed in ſome places with birch wood; but, as uſual, the beſt land, and the higheſt improvements are at the head of the loch. Here I waited upon Kenneth Mackenzie, Eſq. of Dundonald, the proprietor of the greateſt part of theſe ſhores, who, by means of planting and other improvements, has doubled the value of his eſtate. Vegetation of every kind ſeems to thrive here in a very extraordinary degree, and the valley is watered by a conſiderable river, furniſhed with ſalmon. It is ſurrounded by lofty mountains, which are divided by deep glens crouded with timber, which riſes to a conſiderable height on the face of the hills.

Mr. Pennant deſcribes Dundonald in raptures, and has given a view of it. He was equally captivated with the family, and he correſponded with the good old lady, after his return to England.

I have

I have generally obſerved that thoſe families in the Highlands, who remain upon their eſtates during the whole year, or the greateſt part of it, enjoy a thouſand comforts, which are unknown to the votaries after falſe pleaſures elſewhere. They are alſo freed from the cares and embarraſſments that are the inſeparable companions of the roving gentlemen, whoſe dependence is ſolely upon the rental of moderate Highland eſtate, encumbered with jointures and numerous families.

Mr. Mackenzie never wanders abroad, and his home is a ſource of pleaſure, the ſeat of eaſe, affluence, and health. He has lived to ſee the trees of his own planting become conſiderable. He is under the influence of no factor, and he oppreſſes no tenant; yet his rent-roll increaſes with his years, and his timber, if permitted to ſtand another age, will be worth many thouſand pounds.

Beſides ſalmon, white fiſh, and ſhell-fiſh, which abound more or leſs in all the waters of this coaſt, Little Loch Broom is frequently viſited by the ſhoals of herrings. In the winter of 1786 many veſſels might have been

loaded here and at Great Loch Broom; * but, ſuch is the uncertainty of the herring fiſheries, that the buſſes had gone to the coaſt of Ireland, where they met with little ſucceſs.

My next ſtage was to the head of Great Loch Broom, in which I was accompanied by Mr. Mackenzie, junior. The aſcent from the houſe of Dundonald cannot be leſs than two miles in a gradual riſe.

This ridge of mountains fills up the ſpace between the two lochs, and is compoſed of ſtone

* They were diſcovered accidentally in Great Loch Broom about the end of November, from whence they moved to the Little Loch, where they remained through the greateſt part of the ſpring; but the natives had neither caſks, nor ſalt for curing them, and thus many thouſand pounds were loſt to the public, and in a ſeaſon when that fiſh was ſo ſcarce that pickled herrings, for the Weſt india markets brought 1l. 15s. per barrel at Cork, which was 10s. more upon an average than had been paid in former years. In the manufacturing towns of Scotland many of the poor labouring people, whoſe earnings do not exceed ſeven or eight ſhillings per week, and whoſe daily food conſiſts of potatoes and herrings, were unable to procure ſubſiſtence for their families at the price which was aſked for herring.

All theſe inconveniencies to the home manufacturers, and to the Weſt India trade, would be entirely removed by means of ſmall villages around the north ſhores of Scotland, where the native could be ſupplied with the means of fiſhing and curing.

ſtone reſembling flags, which may be found uſeful to the Britiſh Society.

Having arrived at the edge of the mountains on the north ſide, where the road is carried almoſt perpendicularly from the ſummits, the view of Loch Broom, and a track of champaign country at the head of it, with two winding ſtreams falling into the loch from oppoſite directions, afford one of the fineſt landſcapes in nature.

The ſoil is rich, the country is populous, and the declivities of the ſurrounding mountains are pleaſant. At this place is a church, a manſe, and a ſchool. Here the truſtees at Edinburgh purchaſed twelve acres of good land, on which they erected a large houſe for carrying on ſpinning and weaving; but this deſign proved abortive, through, it is alledged, the miſconduct of thoſe who were entruſted with the management of it. The houſe is now falling into ruins, and the ground is let to a tenant. It ſtands immediately at the head of the loch, upon the north-eaſt ſide of it, near an almoſt natural bay, which, by means of a ſmall pier, could be made a ſecure harbour for buſſes and boats. This

diſtrict was the property of Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul, who has aſſigned it over to his ſon, colonel Mackenzie, now in the Eaſt Indies.

Here I took a boat to the houſe of Mr. Mackenzie of Lochmelm, nearly two miles below, on the north ſide, where the coaſt is moſtly arable and paſture land.

A fiſhing company is now forming, and buildings are ſoon to be erected at Lochmelm, for curing, &c. but the harbour lies at Logie, half a mile diſtant, on the oppoſite ſide, where I found a number of buſſes very ſafely moored. There is a ſmall track of land at Logie, partly arable and partly in graſs. It is well ſupplied in turf, and has ſome ſmall ſprings of water.

This part of the coaſt is the property of Mr. Mackenzie of Dundonald, above mentioned, who is the proprietor of the peninſula between the two lochs.

The length of the loch from Logie to its head is full two miles, and its main breadth above half a mile. The harbour of Logie is formed by a point next the ſea, which, having doubled, the loch widens to a capacious open bay, interſperſed with iſlands; and here a third natural harbour preſents itſelf

itſelf on the north ſide, at a place called Ulapule,* where there are about 100 acres of level ground, lying in the form of a peninſula. From the centrical ſituation of Ulapule lying between the white fiſhery in the open ocean, on the one hand, and the herring fiſhery at the head of the loch, on the other hand, it was judged an eligible ſtation for a cuſtom-houſe,† which, except at Oban, is the only one upon the continent between the Mull of Cantire and Thurſo on the Pentland Firth.

* " Loch More, or Great Loch Briem, is a large and ſafe arm of the ſea, capable of hundreds of the largeſt ſhips, and no rocks nor ſhoals within it, but one ledge on the eaſt ſide of Ulapoole, which extends above a cable's length from that ſhore, which is avoided by keeping one third from the Ulapoole ſide. The beſt places in this loch to ride in are in Ulapoole Bay, on fourteen or fifteen fathom water, above a cable's length from the ſhore; and any where above Logie Point, on from thirteen to twenty-four fathoms.

" Loch Kenort (by which Mr. Mackenzie means Loch Kennard) is a harbour on the eaſt ſide of Ilan-Martin, about a mile northward of the mouth of Loch Briem, in which veſſels may ride very ſafe on four or five fathoms water, good ground, and well ſheltered."

† It is ſomewhat extraordinary, that though a cuſtom houſe was eſtabliſhed here for the convenience of the fiſheries, it has no power to clear out veſſels on the bounty, which is very inconvenient to the inhabitants of this coaſt, who muſt procure their clearances elſewhere, at a great diſtance.

This coaſt was the property of the late earl of Cromarty, and it is now reſtored to his ſon Lord Macleod, with a large track of rugged country behind it, called Cogiach. An indifferent road is carried from Ulapule to the head of the loch, and from thence to Dingwall at the head of the Cromarty Firth, being thirty-ſix miles from ſea to ſea; but there is a ſhorter, though leſs frequented road, to the head of the Firth of Dornoch.

The number of inhabitants around the loch is computed at 1000; and theſe upon little Loch Broom at 500.

Great Loch Broom has in all ages been celebrated for its herring fiſheries, and is conſequently the grand reſort of the buſſes from the towns on the Clyde, at the diſtance of 200 miles or upwards. Whatever be the cauſe, the arrival of the herrings is more certain here than in any part of the kingdom; and it may be fairly conjectured, that a million ſterling has in the laſt fifty years been realiſed from the water of only ſeven miles in length, and ſcarcely a mile in width where broadeſt.

The herrings, till of late, were remarkable for their large ſize, as well as their richneſs and

and flavour. At preſent their richneſs is the ſame as before, but their ſize is diminiſhed from 500 to 8 or 900 for each barrel. In the ſummer they are taken near the head of the loch, and in the winter, towards the center of it. The white fiſhery here is deſtroyed by the dog-fiſh, who ſwarm in theſe waters, owing probably to the ſhoals of herrings which they follow from place to place.

Upon leaving Loch Broom,* I was to enter upon the moſt difficult part of my enterprize, and at a ſeaſon which rendered ſuch a journey almoſt impracticable. October had now ſet in, and I had the whole coaſt to traverſe, unavoidably, on foot, as far as Durneſs upon the North Sea, and from thence to Caithneſs.

Many

* "It was our deſign, ſays Mr. Pennant on leaving the ſhip [at Loch Broom] to have penetrated by land as far as the extremity of the iſland; but were informed that the w. was impaſſable for horſes three miles farther, and that even an Highland foot meſſenger muſt avoid part of the hills by croſſing an arm of the ſea. Return the ſame road through a variety of bog and hazardous rock, that nothing but one ſhoeleſs little ſteed could have carried us over. At length we arrived ſafely on board the ſhip.

——————— "A wond'rous token,
Of heaven's kind care, with necks unbroken."

Many perſons had painted in ſtrong colours, the difficulty of performing this journey at any ſeaſon of the year, and much more ſo in October. They repreſented the country from Aſſynt to Caithneſs as one continued wild or deſart, compoſed of almoſt impaſſable ſwamps and ridges of mountains, where I would find few inhabitants, no ſeats of gentlemen, no roads, inns, or conveniencies of any kind except water. It was farther urged, that I would be continually interrupted by arms of the ſea, which it might be hazardous to croſs at that ſeaſon in Highland boats; that the rivers might be ſwelled by rains and rendered impaſſable; that the ſwamps would be covered with water; that if, upon trial, I ſhould find a journey through that country impracticable, as Mr. Pennant and others had declared, I would be obliged to return to Aſſynt, and croſs the country to the Dornoch Firth, itſelf a journey of great difficulty at all ſeaſons, and ſcarcely paſſable in winter.

They were equally averſe to a ſea voyage round Cape Wrath; neither was I furniſhed with a veſſel that could encounter that navigation. I had beſides propoſed a land

journey

journey by which I might ſee the coaſt, converſe with the few inhabitants, and collect every particular relative to themſelves, their country, and fiſheries. Being now at Loch Broom, from whence there is the track of a road to Inverneſs by Tain, or Dingwall, I was to decide upon what courſe to take.

To myſelf, the greateſt difficulty aroſe from the want of a proper guide who could ſpeak both languages, and here that difficulty was fortunately removed. Mr. Mackenzie of Lochmelm above mentioned, to the civilities I had received from him while at Loch Broom, introduced me to a half-pay officer of the ſame name, who at the firſt word ſaid, that he would be glad to conduct me to Durneſs or farther, if no other perſon offered at that place. Being a native of Aſſynt, he had a general knowledge of the country, and he undertook to procure a guide to Durneſs when neceſſary.

This unexpected and generous offer was readily embraced, and we ſailed immediately from Ulapule to Loch Kennard at the main entrance of Loch Broom, a commodious bay, where Mr. Woodhouſe of Liverpool has

expended

expended 5000l. in erecting a ſet of buildings for curing red herrings.

Notwithſtanding the money he had laid out, the number of people whom he daily employed, and the high price of 5s. 6d. given to the fiſhers for every looſe barrel of herrings, he had been ſo harraſſed in his buſineſs, by the collector of the cuſtom-houſe at Ulapule, reſpecting ſalt, that after remonſtrating in vain to the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms at Edinburgh, he reſolved to relinquiſh that trade and withdraw his capital. He accordingly advertiſed his buildings for ſale, upon which, it is ſaid, the commiſſioners thought proper to diſmiſs the collector, which gave univerſal ſatisfaction, and particularly to Mr. Woodhouſe, who, on this news, withdrew his advertiſements; and he now carries on a buſineſs that is likely to prove very beneficial to himſelf, and ſtill more ſo to the fiſhers and labourers on the coaſt.

I was gratified by Mr. Woodyer, his manager, with a ſight of theſe works, who obligingly, and without reſerve, gave me an account of the whole proceſs of drying the fiſh, with the prices, and the markets where they were ſold.

During

During our ſtay at this place, a violent ſtorm commenced, of wind, rain, and hail, which lay on the ſummits of the mountains like ſnow; and now all the horrors of a boiſterous winter were before us.

We lodged one night on the main land, at a public houſe kept by a widow, where the rain poured copiouſly upon us on every ſide. Next day, all or moſt of the corn belonging to this poor woman, that had been cut down, was carried away by the floods; "The loſs of which," ſaid ſhe, "I will bear "as well as I can, but my rent is to be "doubled, which is more than I can pay."

The weather ſtill continued wet and cold. The wind was unfavourable for the proſecution of our voyage, and the ſqualls from the mountains rendered the attempt in an open boat impracticable.

Mr. Woodyer, ſeeing our diſtreſs, generouſly offered one of the decked veſſels to carry us to the Iſland of Tanera, where I propoſed to look at another herring houſe juſt finiſhed by Mr. Moriſon and Co.

The diſtance is only five or ſix miles; but the voyage was partly through a narrow ſtrait, with a head wind, and ſubject every

ten

ten or fifteen minutes to ſqualls from the mountains, accompanied with hail, which ſeemed to threaten our deſtruction.

We tacked and ſtruggled three or four hours, to clear a paſſage ſcarcely a mile in length, which we at laſt accompliſhed.

Having cleared one narrow channel, we had to encounter another, out of which the wind blew with irreſiſtible force. Seeing no end to this work, and the evening approaching, I requeſted to be put aſhore on the main land, which ſeemed to be inhabited. From this place we walked along the coaſt till we came oppoſite to the Iſle of Tapera, where we procured a boat that carried us ſafely acroſs a narrow channel, to the houſe of Mr. Moriſon.

The buildings erected here, are capacious, and in every reſpect well adapted to the buſineſs of curing white and red herrings. Mr. Moriſon, by reſiding in the vicinity of the fiſheries, takes the benefit of all ſeaſons, and every appearance of herrings, of which he has the earlieſt intelligence.

Thus, his local ſituation gives him a manifeſt advantage over the buſs fleet from the Clyde,

Clyde, who ſet out upon an uncertainty where to find the fiſh; and, after a voyage of two or three weeks, amidſt the numerous iſlands and rocks of the weſtern ſhores, arrive ſometimes too early, and at other times too late.

In this dilemma, they cruize from place to place; from one loch to another; and it often happens, that when they are upon their departure from a lake, the herrings are ſteering directly towards it. A great part of the ſeaſon is thereby loſt; the herrings paſs on towards Ireland; the buſſes return to their ports half empty, upon an average; the owners are diſappointed, and the Weſt India ſhips proceed to ſea without having procured the full amount of their cargoes.

The buſſes clear out a ſecond time with the greateſt diſpatch, and direct their courſe for the weſt coaſt of Ireland, upon the ſame uncertainty; while the natives on that coaſt, by means of their vicinity to, and ready intelligence of the ſhoals, are loading many veſſels with full cargoes.

This accounts partly for the bad ſucceſs of the buſs fiſhery in Scotland, and ſtrongly points

points out the neceſſity of erecting villages upon the fiſhing grounds; where men of ſome property will be always ready to embrace every opportunity that offers. It will alſo reſtore a ſhare of theſe fiſheries to the natives, who, by certain reſtrictions in the fiſhery laws, have been excluded from availing themſelves of their natural birth-right.

They are unable in their preſent ſituation to fit out buſſes, and the law prevents thoſe who can only equip ſmall boats, from ſelling their little captures to the ſtrangers who come among them in decked veſſels upon the bounty, till ſuch veſſels ſhall have remained there three months, when probably the herrings have left the coaſt. It is therefore evident, that while all parties ſuffer more or leſs by this reſtricting clauſe, the nation ſuſtains a proportionable negative loſs.

In Ireland, where the herring fiſhery has riſen inſtantaneouſly to a great magnitude, there are no reſtraints upon fiſhing, buying, or ſelling. The good conſequences of this freedom is ſenſibly felt in the employment it gives to the induſtrious, the cheap food it affords

affords to the great body of the people, the freights it furniſhes to ſhipping, and the increaſe it adds to national wealth.

In the ſummer of 1786, Mr. Moriſon loaded a veſſel and ſent her to the market before the Clyde veſſels appeared upon the coaſt. When they arrived, the herrings were moſtly diſperſed, and the captures were ſmall. Deſpairing of the return of the herrings in winter, the whole buſs fleet ſailed from Clyde, as before obſerved, to the Iriſh fiſhery, where they were unſucceſsful; while at Loch Broom, and the coaſt around it, 500 ſail might have been loaded. Of this late booty, Mr. Moriſon again availed himſelf; but ſo ill provided is that country in the neceſſaries for fiſhing, that he was obliged to come up to London, in March 1787, with the view of purchaſing veſſels, caſks, ſtaves, and nets, preparatory to the next fiſhing ſeaſon.

Theſe few particulars will, I hope, convince the reader, of the great importance of fiſhing ſtations along the coaſts of the Highlands; where a great, a certain, and a permanent fiſhery may be carried on by the people reſiding at or near theſe ſtations;

where traders and fiſhers may be readily and cheaply ſupplied with materials; and where veſſels may be built or repaired.

Mr. Moriſon accompanied us in his boat to the main land of Cogiach, and from thence through ſome good, and ſome bad land, to the houſe of a tackſman, by whom we were furniſhed with a boat and ſix men, to carry us acroſs a wide bay to Loch Inver, in Aſſynt.

Our only difficulty in this voyage happened at the firſt ſetting out. The wind blew freſh from the ſea, which ſent in a high ſwell that rolled furiouſly along the beach, and diſſolved in a cloud of white foam.

Having dragged the boat to a proper ſtation on the ſhore, it was reſolved that Mr. Mackenzie, the boatmen, and myſelf, ſhould go on board before ſhe was launched; that the people on ſhore, of whom there were a croud of men, women, and children, ſhould be prepared to puſh the boat out, between the wave that had juſt paſſed, and that which was following, before it had time to break.---In effecting this, ſome of the people were almoſt up to their ſhoulders in water and foam, while thoſe in

the

the boat were ſtraining every nerve to keep her out, by means of oars and poles. The tongues, the noiſe, and the buſtle upon this occaſion reſembled, we may ſuppoſe, the confuſion at Babylon; and this work, when the wind blows from certain points, is to be repeated upon the launch of every fiſhing boat; merely from the want of a ſmall pier, a conveniency almoſt unknown in the Highlands, and which proves a great impediment to fiſheries.

We had a pleaſant evening's ſail to the mouth of Loch Inver. The men complained as uſual of the riſe in their rents.--"Our fathers," ſaid they, "were called out "to fight our maſter's battles, and this is "our reward." They ſpoke with ſeeming indifference of the cauſe in which their fathers, and probably ſome of themſelves had been engaged, which they ſaid, they did not underſtand.

We arrived after ſun-ſet at the houſe of Mr. Donald Roſs, on the head of Loch Inver, where we met with a true Highland reception. We were now at the north extremity of Roſs-ſhire, and on the property of Lady Sutherland, the rental of whoſe eſtate, here,

and in the county of Sutherland, is about 5,000l. per annum. This fine loch is divided into two parts, the outer and the inner.*--- The outer loch, or rather the bay between the point of Cogiach and the point of Aſſynt, abounds in cod, ling, and ſkate, &c.--- The inner loch is almoſt land-locked, and ſufficiently capacious for a large fleet of ſhips. It has a fine clean entrance, with twenty fathom water, which leſſens gradually towards the head, where there is above five fathom, and a fine ſandy beach, near to which the herrings are taken.

At the head of the loch, on the ſouth ſide, there is a remarkable ſafe creek, with three fathom water, where Mr. Roſs, and Mr. Joſeph Bacon of Douglas in the Iſle of Man, erected in the year 1775, a large curing houſe with a dwelling houſe, where Mr. Roſs reſides. There is a ſmall wharf on this creek, where buſſes may lay their ſides within a few yards of Mr. Roſs's door.

Though the utmoſt expence of theſe buildings did not exceed 2500 guineas, Mr. Roſs is

* "Loch Inver, above the little iſland Glaſſoch, which lies in the middle of it, is well ſheltered, good ground, of ſufficient depth for the largeſt ſhips, and nothing to be feared in ſailing along the S. ſides of Soya Iſland and Glaſſoch."

Mackenzie.

is out of pocket, and appears inclinable to transfer his concern therein. The failure in this buſineſs, he ſays, was partly owing to the vexatious trouble that they had from the collector of the cuſtom-houſe of Loch Broom, reſpecting ſalt, which ended in an expenſive law ſuit before the Court of Seſſion at Edinburgh, between Mr. Roſs and the collector, when the latter had a ſmall majority of the Lords in his favour. Mr. Roſs declares, that he paid the collector 20l. per annum for ſome years, in order that the ſalt buſineſs might be facilitated, without farther claims or expectations.

The lands around this Loch are rough and hilly, but there is ſome level ground on the edge of the beach, four acres of which were feued by Meſſrs. Roſs and Bacon, for a period of 999 years, which ground, with the buildings thereon, they are willing to transfer.

This is the laſt place towards the North, from whence a direct road can be made between the two ſeas. The diſtance from Loch Inver to Tain is fifty-ſix miles; forty-three of which on the eaſt ſide are level, and the whole might be made a cart road.

Though the pariſh of Aſſynt is not populous, yet the number of inhabitants amount to 2,500.

About five miles from Loch Inver, there is a freſh water lake, called Loch Aſſynt, ſeven miles in length, and one in breadth, whoſe banks are well peopled. From this lake the river Inver falls into the loch of that name, and furniſhes ſome laſts of ſalmon annually. Another river falls into the creek where the curing houſe is built.

The ſhores on the north ſide of the loch, as far as the point of Aſſynt, is inhabited by people who are alternately employed in fiſhing and in agriculture, if it deſerves that name. Their fields conſiſt of patches of ſoil between the rocks, which they cultivate with the ſpade, and whoſe produce ſupplies them in good years, with potatoes and meal till the enſuing ſeed time.

Here nothing is loſt that will even raiſe a ſheaf of grain, and many of their fields do not exceed the dimenſions of a common carpet.

After ſeed time, they look for ſupport to Mr. Roſs, who is the only perſon in that country

country by whom they can be ſupplied with the ſmalleſt article. He imports oat and barley meal, which he ſells upon credit, to the amount of of more than their rents, on their engaging to pay for the ſame in money, or in fiſh.

When I was at this place in October 1786, theſe people had fallen greatly behind in their payments; and, after the utmoſt exertions to reduce their debts, Mr. Roſs was obliged to take their bills or notes of hand for the remainder. Being favoured with a ſight of theſe bills, I took the number and amount of the whole, which I found to be 162 bills, making 359l. Some of them were ſo ſmall as ſixteen ſhillings, and all of them overdue. The number of people thus ſupported by one man, is, at the rate of ſix to a family, 972, beſides thoſe who had paid up their arrears. Should Mr. Roſs give up a buſineſs of which he is heartily tired, many families muſt abandon their native country, unleſs ſome effectual meaſures ſhall be adopted for their relief, from another quarter.

A ſtill greater cauſe of diſtreſs, ariſes from the want of ſalt to ſeaſon their fiſh, which forms a principal part of their food, and throws them into fluxes, of which ſome die; inſomuch,

inſomuch, that Mrs. Roſs has continually a a number of helpleſs patients upon her hands, to whom ſhe is both doctor and nurſe, beſides ſupplying them with ſuch ſuitable food and drink as her houſe affords.

While the unhappy people, whoſe lot it is to inhabit thoſe ſterile and neglected ſhores of of the north Highlands, are thus lingering through the want of common neceſſaries of life, thoſe of the ſame rank, who reſide on the fiſhing ſhores of Ireland, are plentifully ſupplied, and liberally encouraged, both by the ſtate, and by individuals. Some of the latter, to whoſe activity is principally owing the rapid increaſe of the Iriſh fiſheries, are inviting experienced perſons from every quarter, by alluring offers, to come and ſettle in the towns which are now erecting on the north-weſt coaſt of that kingdom.

One of theſe letters had been directed to Mr. Bacon, in the Iſle of Man, who ſent a copy of it to Mr. Roſs, of which I had the peruſal.

We were now to enter Sutherland, which is divided from Roſs-ſhire at the Stoire of Aſſynt, a projecting point or head-land, well known to mariners.

DESCRIP-

DESCRIPTION OF SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

THE county of Sutherland is the moſt remote in Great Britain, and alſo the moſt rugged and leaſt improveable.

Excepting ſome inconſiderable tracks along the ſhores it is moſtly compoſed of mountains of rock and ſtrata, extenſive moraſſes, and impaſſable bogs. "I never ſaw a country, " ſays Mr. Pennant, "that ſeemed to have been ſo "torn and convulſed: the ſhock when ever it "happened, ſhook off all that vegetates"--- "yet here, the ſtrata, near the baſe of the "mountains, and in the bottoms are com- "poſed of white marble, fine as the Parian; "houſes are built with it, and walls "raiſed: burnt, it is the manure of the "country; but oftener nature diſſolves, and "preſents it ready prepared to the lazy "farmers.—Numbers of the miſerables of "this country, were now [1772] migrating. "They wander in a ſtate of deſperation; "too poor to pay, they madly ſell them- "ſelves, for their paſſage, preferring a tem- "porary bondage in a ſtrange land, to "ſtarving for life in their native ſoil."

It

It may eaſily be conceived, that the indigence and deſperation of theſe people ariſe chiefly from the ſeverity of the climate, as well as the poverty of the ſoil, which utterly precludes improvements in agriculture, of any conſequence; and nine parts out of ten in this great county, muſt unavoidably remain an inhoſpitable, ſterile deſart, to the end of time.

The moſt ſouthern part of the county is from ſea to ſea, the property of the Counteſs of Sutherland. The north-weſt diviſion belongs to Lord Rae, and is generally called Lord Rae's country. In this diviſion is the noted head-land, called Cape Wrath, a coaſt of perpendicular rock, and the dread of mariners. At ſome diſtance from thence, eaſtward, there is a track of deſolation itſelf, ſaid to extend thirty miles every way, called Lord Rae's Foreſt, where 7 or 800 deer range at large.

I have often obſerved that where nature is ſparing of her gifts in one reſpect, ſhe is bountiful in another. If Sutherland has the moſt barren territory, it has rich ſeas.

Many counties in Britain have one coaſt; a ſmall number have a double coaſt, but the

county

county of Sutherland has a treble coaſt; which affords acceſs to fiſheries on the weſt, on the north, and on the eaſt.

There are ſeveral ſmall iſlands on the weſt coaſt of Sutherland, of which only one, called Elen Handa, is inhabited.

The clans in this county, are Sutherlands and Mackays. The former generally compoſe the principal part of a regiment of fencibles in every war. The latter, of whom Lord Rae is the chief, are falling off in their numbers.

JOURNAL.

On our leaving Loch Inver, Mr. Roſs went out with us in his boat to the narrow part of the Stoire, where we landed, and took a guide for the bay on the north ſide of it. In this day's journey we obſerved the ruins of an old caſtle or fortreſs which our guide ſaid was frequented by wild cats, and warned us of our danger ſhould we approach it; but his admonition was diſregarded. It ſtands at no great diſtance from the extremity

ty of the Stoire, and commands an extenſive view of the coaſt, and of the ocean, ſo that no enemy could approach by water, without being diſtinctly ſeen in every direction.

Towards the weſt, we perceived the Butt of the Lewis, diſtant about fifty miles; and on the ſouth, we could barely diſtinguiſh the north land of Sky.

In paſſing a ſmall field, from which the corn had been juſt carried away, we reckoned forty-two wild geeſe buſily employed among the ſtubble, from which they did not ſeem diſpoſed to move, till we got within a ſtone's throw of them.

When we arrived at the north ſide of this peninſula, another large bay preſented itſelf; and this being ſkirted with ſmall ones, I was deſirous to coaſt the whole in a boat, inſtead of croſſing immediately to the oppoſite ſide.

With this view it was neceſſary to ſecure a lodging upon the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the bay, and to engage a boat thither, which proved a greater difficulty than we had conceived. The people were buſy at their harveſt, which they poſitively refuſed to leave. The even-

ing

ing advanced, Mr. Mackenzie ſcolded, probably ſwore, and at length ſucceeded.

It happened to be at low ebb, and the boat lay a great way from the water, amidſt heavy ſand, which required many hands to get her afloat.

Having got on board once more, Mr. Mackenzie, who always took his turn at the oar, directed our courſe for a houſe near Loch Niet, which we explored next morning.

From thence we coaſted along the bottom of the main bay, to a capacious ſafe loch, called Kyleſcough, which forms the northern boundary of Lady Sutherland's eſtate on that ſide; and where Lord Rae's eſtate commences.

Kyleſcough is the largeſt of all the northern lakes beyond Loch Broom. It reaches within ten miles of Loch Shin, an inland lake, ſixteen miles in length, from whence there is a road to the Firth of Dornoch. This is the only opportunity that nature affords to theſe very remote inhabitants, for a land communication with other parts of Britain.

From Kyleſcough, we paſſed Loch Sark and Loch Calaway, to Loch Badiwal, another

other ſafe bay; but the entrance is crowded with rocks and ſmall iſlands.

We were now in the laſt pariſh on the weſt coaſt of Scotland, called Ederachillis, where we found a welcome reception from Mr. Turner the miniſter of that forlorn region. This gentleman had been engaged in a law ſuit with the truſtees of Lord Rae's eſtate, who claimed a right to all the ſea wreck that grew upon his glebe, beyond what he could uſe in manuring it. He denied their right to any part of the marine produce, and was non-ſuited, he alledges, very unjuſtly.

Mr. Turner walked with us next morning to Scowrie Bay, the beſt track of land that we had ſeen ſince we left Aſſynt, and inhabited by twenty families. This little bay is ſheltered at the entrance by Elen Handa; but notwithſtanding its apparent ſecurity, ſea-faring people do not ſpeak well of it.

Being furniſhed with a guide for Loch Laxford, we puſhed on vigorouſly towards that lake, where we might ſecure a lodging before night; when it would be impoſſible to advance a hundred yards without danger from precipices or bogs. Even with daylight we found difficulty in getting forward.

It

It is a country where no man, who cannot climb like a goat, and jump like a graſshopper, ſhould attempt to travel, eſpecially in the month of October.

We directed our courſe towards the mouth of the loch; where, having arrived, we entered a hut, took out our barley bread, our Highland cheeſe hard as flint, and our whiſkey bottle. The people ſupplied us with water, and a horn tumbler.

We preſented each perſon with a dram, and they in return, brought out a wooden bowl full of milk, againſt the uſe of which no refuſal was admitted. Mr. Mackenzie had ſnuff, which is highly valued in the Highlands, where any ſtranger who cannot take a pinch, or give one, is looked upon with an evil eye.

I was ſorry to perceive, what I little expected to find in ſo ſmall a community, two lunatics; one of them a grown, well looked woman, who had been diſappointed in a love affair; the other, a boy of the neighbourhood.

Mr. Mackenzie did not ſeem pleaſed with the lodgings that the few cottages in this place

place afforded; and having ſome knowledge of a farmer and fiſher, at the head of the loch, we engaged for a boat thither; which, as uſual, we had to launch.

Having a ſtraight courſe, a ſtrong breeze, and a fair wind, we ſet out with only two men, the ſons of our hoſt, who ſeemed to be well acquainted with the management of a fiſhing boat.

A great ſea ruſhed in at the mouth of the loch, which, having no interruption from points or head-lands, rolled with awful grandeur to the upper end of this beautiful lake, where it broke furiouſly upon the beach.

Our young men ſeemed to deſpiſe danger; and it was with difficulty that I could prevail upon them to haul down the ſails that threatened to bury us under the waves. This they obſerved, was nothing to the ſea without, "which," ſaid they, "is now running mountains high; but we never mind it if "we get fiſh enough."

It is much to be regretted that the intrepid Highlanders are not able to equip more ſuitable boats for the ſea fiſhery. However they may deſpiſe danger, ſuch boats as they have

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at preſent cannot go far from ſhore; for, ſhould a ſtorm overtake them when fiſhing at the diſtance of fifteen or twenty miles from land, they muſt inevitably periſh.

In Shetland there are a number of boats that go to the diſtance of thirty miles from land, where the cod and ling are the moſt numerous, and of the largeſt ſize; but, for their ſecurity, they go in little fleets, accompanied by a decked veſſel, which receives and cures their fiſh in moderate weather, and preſerves their lives in ſtormy weather.

On the Murray Firth, and the coaſt of Aberdeenſhire, the fiſhers have boats ſuited for the coaſt, and others of a larger ſize for the diſtant fiſhery, which they uſe as occaſions require. With theſe large boats they ſometimes go out of ſight of land, towards the coaſt of Norway; whereas, the Highland boats are nearly of one ſize, ſlender built, and but indifferently equipped. Theſe people labour under every diſadvantage, whether ploughing the ocean, or delving the ſoil.

Having deſired to try the experiment of bare poles, as it is termed, we run at a

good rate to the head of the loch, where we entered a large river, which furniſhes ſome laſts of ſalmon annually.

Here we were met by the perſon in whoſe houſe Mr. Mackenzie had propoſed we ſhould lodge. We received a more than common welcome to whatever his houſe could afford, and for what it did not afford he was continually making apologies.

Loch Laxford is itſelf moſtly a harbour in moderate weather, for large ſhips; * and it is happily furniſhed on both ſides with ſmall bays, where coaſters and fiſhing veſſels lie in great ſecurity. The beſt harbour for large ſhips, is near the entrance on the ſouth ſide, but there is ſcarcely any land where houſes could be built.

If a town was erected higher up, or at the head of the loch, the large ſhipping below

* "Loch Laxford is a capacious very fine harbour; there is nothing to fear coming in, but what is always above water; except an half-tide rock, about a cable's length W. from Duſkere; the ground and ſhelter are good, and the depth moderate for ſhips of all ſizes.

"The beſt anchorage is above Ilan-Valti any where; or nearer the mouth of the loch, on the S. ſide, between Ilan-Ard and Finadil." *Mackenzie.*

low might ſend their boats thither for ſuch neceſſaries as they might want; but as the whole upper part of the loch is a road, or good anchoring place, ſhipping might lie ſafely with moſt winds, off the town.

The whole length of the loch does not exceed four miles, and its breadth (the bays excepted) is under one mile. There are ſome ſpots of arable land around the bays, and a large track of ſhallow moſs at the head of the loch, which might ſoon be improved. The whole coaſt is under mortgage to Charles Gordon Eſq. of Skelpick, factor to Lord Rae's eſtate. The number of families around the loch, and in the diſtrict, is ſixteen.

From the deſcription that we received of the country before us, it was neceſſary to ſupply ourſelves at Loch Laxford with another guide, and a freſh ſtock of barley-bread, cheeſe, and whiſkey, ſufficient for our journey to Durneſs; which, with all the windings around the hills, and among the ſwamps, was ſtill conſiderable.

We ſet out in good time, and ſoon reached Loch Inchard, the rival to Loch Laxford,

and the laſt bay or harbour on the north-weſt coaſt of Scotland, from whence to Cape Wrath, the ſhore preſents one uniform line of lofty rock.

This loch is about two miles in length by half a mile in width; the whole is one continued harbour, ſecure from all winds, with good ground, and having from eight to thirty-ſeven fathom water.* It has alſo ſome commodious ſmall bays where fiſhing veſſels and boats lie in ſafety.

There is much arable land around the loch, alſo a ſalmon fiſhery, and the number of inhabitants amounts to eighteen families.

At the diſtance of four miles north, near the coaſt, there is another track of arable land, inhabited by twenty-two families, who, with thoſe of Loch Inchard and Loch Laxford,

* "Loch Hinſhort has a ſafe entrance, is well ſheltered, the ground good, and the depth of water moderate for ſhips of all ſizes. Sail up till you are land-locked, and anchor neareſt the north or eaſt ſide.

"Loch Ardiczar is a creek (at the mouth of Loch Inchard) with ſufficient depth of water, and the ground clean and good; but there is bad riding in it in winter, when the wind blows from the weſtward."

Mackenzie.

Laxford, make fifty-ſix families or 336 people. This is the only data on which to form a conjecture of the population between the Point of Aſſynt and Cape Wrath, including the main coaſt, the banks of the lakes, and all thoſe who live in the vicinity of theſe ſhores. The length of the coaſt upon the main ſea, is at leaſt forty miles; the circumference of the lakes and bays is above 150 miles: we may ſtate the whole line of coaſt at 200 miles; which, including the few inhabitants of the back country, does not contain above 2000 people, or ten for each mile.

This conſideration, with the incorrigible ſterility of the country, ſeems to put a negative againſt the eſtabliſhment of a town upon the north-weſt coaſt, beyond the Point of Aſſynt. There are, however, other conſiderations which merit attention. The firſt, though not the moſt important on this coaſt, relates to fiſheries.

It has been obſerved by the oldeſt men now living, that the ſhoals of herrings do not frequent this coaſt with that regularity and conſtancy which is perceived on the ſhores of Roſs-ſhire. I ſaw at Lord Rae's houſe in

Loch Tongue, a book that contains copies of a correſpondence, from the year 1730 to 1740, between George Lord Rae and certain merchants of Glaſgow, Renfrew, and Dunbar, relative to herrings caught by his lordſhip's tenants upon this coaſt. It appears from their correſpondence, that herrings were then plentiful; that his lordſhip ſold them ready cured; and that the merchants ſent veſſels to take them away at a fixed price agreed upon by contract between the parties, for a given number of years.

Sometime after the above date, the herrings forſook that coaſt, till within theſe laſt ten years, when they returned, and have continued their viſits to the preſent time. This uncertainty of the herrings furniſhes another diſcouraging circumſtance againſt a fiſhing ſtation; but though the herrings are uncertain, the cod and ling fiſhery is invariable to thoſe who can venture a conſiderable way in the open ſea, where the fiſh are large and inexhauſtible. Still more important is the great fiſhery off the ſouth coaſt of Iceland, to which there is an open ſea, and no interruption whatever.

Veſſels

Veſſels which frequent that fiſhery from Holland and other parts, generally allow one month upon an average, for the outward bound paſſage; but if a town was eſtabliſhed at Loch Laxford or Loch Inchard, the veſſels from thence could run over with any wind, in three or four days. Other veſſels have to navigate the dangerous paſſage of the Pentland Firth, or the channel between the Orkney and the Shetland Iſlands; but between Cape Wrath and Iceland there are no lands, no interruption to the progreſs of the veſſels through the night as well as the day

Shipping from other parts, who have long outward and homeward voyages generally chuſe the longeſt day, which happens not to be the beſt ſeaſon for cod: that fiſh is in its higheſt perfection between November and April, or the beginning of May at fartheſt; a circumſtance which might throw the Iceland fiſhery almoſt entirely into the hands of the north-weſt inhabitants of Scotland, and particularly thoſe upon Lord Rae's eſtate. The very oil extracted from fiſh taken in the Iceland ſeas might enrich the whole coaſt in a few years.

But there is an argument in reſerve, that ſuperſedes all other conſiderations, and points out in the moſt forcible manner, the expediency of a town near Cape Wrath, even admitting that no fiſhery could be carried on from theſe ſhores, or near them.

The diſtance between Loch Inchard and Cape Wrath, and from thence to Loch Eribol on the North Sea, is above twenty miles. In this long track, which to navigate requires different winds, there is no place where a veſſel can ſafely anchor in rough weather, or where ſhe can receive the ſmalleſt aſſiſtance to repair any damage ſhe may have received in her voyage. The coaſt to Cape Wrath is compoſed of a perpendicular line of rock from 100 to 250 feet high, againſt which the ſea breaks with inconceivable violence, throwing its ſpray ſometimes over the ſummits, to a conſiderable diſtance upon the lands.

On the eaſt ſide of the Cape the ſhore is exactly ſimilar, excepting the opening at Durneſs, which being moſtly dry land at low water, no veſſels approach it unleſs driv-

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en thither by ſtreſs of weather, when they are inſtantly ſtranded or broke to pieces.

The effects of this inhoſpitable ſhore, which denies either an aſylum or a ſupply to the ſinking veſſel, falls heavy, as formerly obſerved, upon the commerce of theſe kingdoms, beſides the number of men who die through cold and fatigue, or who go down with the ſhip to the bottom of the ocean. A town therefore, at either of the above mentioned places, would prove a moſt deſirable boon to the ſhipping of all the European nations, and particularly to thoſe of Great Britain and Ireland. Here able ſhip-carpenters might be accommodated with a graving dock, and furniſhed with all manner of materials for the immediate repair of ſuch veſſels as were forced thither through leaks, dent, rough weather, or contrary winds.

Our way from Loch Inchard to Durneſs lay acroſs the country, in a north-eaſt direction; and now I took leave of the weſtern ſeas, their extenſive ſhores, their beautiful lakes, their numerous iſlands, and their hoſpitable clans.

The country through which we were to paſs, forms a part of what is called the Foreſt;

Foreſt; but it might with greater propriety be called the Deſart. Here are no trees, no houſes, no people. We did not ſee a human creature till we came within ſight of Durneſs; and very few cattle. The whole was rock or moſs, generally covered with long heath. A few moor-fowl roſe now and then from among our feet. They were generally in pairs, and might eaſily have been ſhot. The deer keep moſtly together, probably for their common defence, as well as to protect their young. Seven hundred and upwards appear ſometimes in one body.

We perceived the ſummits, and the declivities of the hills ſtrewed with large ſtones, from one to three or four ton weight. Some thouſands are thus diſperſed over a track of many miles, and the labour of raiſing moſt of them to conſiderable heights muſt have been great. I could not learn the uſe of theſe ſtones; but it is probable that they ſerved to ſcreen the perſons who were on the watch to kill the wild boar, the deer, the fox, the eagle, and other animals, which, in old times, abounded in the Highlands.

When we had got to a conſiderable height, the boundleſs expanſe of the Northern Ocean opened to our view, and having the water

water of Durneſs on our right hand, we were now in no danger of going out of our courſe. When we came within ſight of Durneſs, we ſat down by the ſide of a brook to dinner, which we waſhed down with whiſkey and water.

Though the tops of the mountains were covered with ſnow, I was continually in a ſweat, owing to the aſcent of the hills, and many bad ſteps among the ſwamps; while Mr. Mackenzie, who was not encumbered with boots, travelled with all the agility and eaſe for which his countrymen are remarkable.

The country through which we were now paſſing, ſeems, though ſtill moſs and heath, to be improveable.

Having a uniform declivity to the river and the bay of Durneſs, it might be ſo far reclaimed, as to yield good crops of potatoes. In this opinion I was ſoon confirmed by the appearance of a lately improved country around Durneſs, which formed a ſtriking contraſt to the deſart which we had croſſed.

Soon after we had finiſhed our bread and cheeſe, we perceived ſome horſemen who had been ſent by Mr. Anderſon, a trader at Durneſs, to aſſiſt us in our journey, and to con-

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vey us to his houſe; but ſuch was the nature of the country, that I could not avail myſelf of this aſſiſtance till I got within a mile of Durneſs.

Here the ſea meets the river, and forms a beautiful bay when the tide is in, but at low water it exhibits an extenſive bed of ſand. The adjacent country, which was lately covered with heath, is now covered with oats, barley, and potatoes, through the exertions of Mr. Anderſon, who has the lands and a ſalmon fiſhery upon leaſe.

There are many thouſand acres upon this north ſhore, equally improveable; but inſtead of aſſiſting the ſoil, the people on this eſtate, as well as the inhabitants of Caithneſs, are ſuffered to pare off the ſod, which they uſe for covering their houſes and for firing, though in the neighbourhood of endleſs moſſes. The ſurface appears, as an Iriſh ſhipmaſter obſervd, like a man with his ſkin ſtead off.

In this place ſtands the pariſh church, the manſe, and a ſeat of the family of Rae, which is inhabited at preſent by a tackſman, who rents a track of natural good land, that ſtretches along the north ſhore. In this farm is the promontory called Farout Head, which

which forms the eaſt ſide of the entrance into the Bay of Durneſs, oppoſite to Cape Wrath, that lies on the weſt ſide. The height of theſe Capes is ſaid to be nearly 250 feet above the ſea.

There is a ridge of rock and chingle that runs four miles out from the Cape, with only fourteen fathom water, which ſhallow, with a rapid tide of ſeven miles an hour, occaſions a high ſwell which is ſometimes dangerous to navigation.

I was informed at different places that a rock has lately been diſcovered in thoſe ſeas, which ought to be marked in all the charts. The following declaration reſpecting it, was left with Mr Campbell of Scalpa in Harris, by Capt. George Maughan of Seton Sluice near Hull, June 30, 1785. "I ſaw the rock bearing from Cape Wrath, "N. by W. diſtant between four and five "leagues. Appears at laſt quarter of ebb."

The Bay of Durneſs was formerly a good natural harbour, land-locked on every ſide, and rings were fixed for mooring ſhips, but the entrance is now almoſt filled up with ſand, which is increaſing every year.

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Sometime before my arrival there, a ſhip belonging to Newcaſtle or Shieldswas broke to pieces on theſe ſands.

Upon this event, Mr. Anderſon and the people of the neighbourhood gave every poſſible aſſiſtance, in ſaving a part of the cargo, and relieving the people. A year or two before, another ſhip belonging to the ſame owners was ſtranded on this coaſt, to whom Mr. Anderſon and the natives gave the ſame aid. I ſaw a letter of thanks from one of the owners to Mr. Anderſon, expreſſing a grateful ſenſe of his own attention, and the humanity and honeſty of the people, a character they have long merited, and will, I hope, long continue to merit.

Danger and death look every ſeaman in the face, who navigates the coaſt between Cape Wrath, the Orkneys, and the eaſt entrance of the Pentland Firth.

On the Sunday night before my arrival at Durneſs, an Iriſh veſſel from the Baltic had become ſo unmanageable, that the crew, wore out with fatigue, and ſeeing apparent deſtruction before them, gave up the helm and reſigned themſelves to their fate. The veſſel drove immediately before the wind, towards the impending cliffs of Cape Wrath, on the weſt ſide of that awful promontory.

Death

Death ſeemed now inevitable, and that in a few minutes; when, by a moſt extraordinary circumſtance, their lives were ſaved.--- There is a crevice in the face of the rocks ſufficiently wide to admit a part of an ordinary ſized veſſel. Into this crevice, the only opening upon a coaſt of ſeveral miles in length, the veſſel was hurried endways, by a great wave, and the men had juſt ſtrength enough to jump out, and to ſcramble to the top of rocks. The veſſel beat to pieces; the men wandered about the Cape, till a glimmering light directed them to a hut, where they were glad to repoſe themſelves through the night. One of their number who had fallen behind, was found dead next morning among the heath.

When an account of this diſaſter reached Durneſs, Mr. Anderſon collected the neighbourhood, who recovered ſome part of the cargo for the owners, and brought the miſerable crew to his houſe, where they received all the aſſiſtance that could be given, till they were able to ſet out for their own country. The ſame humanity and ſtrict regard to juſtice pervade the whole coaſt of Sutherland and Caithneſs, where ſhipwrecks are moſt frequent.

quent. But, as has been obſerved at the beginning of this book, ſomething more than humanity and hoſpitality is wanting for the relief of ſhipping upon theſe ſhores, and which can only be effected by the public.*

* An event happened, at my firſt ſetting out on the SECOND PART of this journey, which, as a caution to others, it may be proper to communicate without waiting for the publication to which it properly belongs.

Between Durneſs and Caithneſs there is a tract called the *Moan*, which ſignifies the Great Moraſs, about twenty or twenty-four miles in length, by eight in breadth, which muſt be croſſed by all travellers on that coaſt.

This tract ſeems to be partly a deep moſs floating upon water. It has no traces of a path, is much cut up, and though no more than eight miles acroſs in a direct line, whoever paſſes that way in October, muſt walk at leaſt twenty miles of a moſt fatiguing journey, eſpecially to thoſe who have boots. Having two guides, I got ſafely to the other ſide, and being very tired, I went early to bed. The gentleman at whoſe houſe I lodged, was pleaſed to ſhew me into the bed-room, which was full of ſmoke, owing to a newly kindled peat fire, and an unfavourable wind. When he went out, he left the door a little open, and adviſed me to let it remain ſo through the night. Inſtead of following his council I ſhut the door, and took off the greeneſt peats, thinking by that means to get rid of the ſmoke.

I went to bed and fell aſleep in leſs than five minutes.—Awoke about two o'clock in great agony, and ſcarcely able to breathe. Having a confuſed ſenſe of my ſituation, and the cauſe of it, I attempted to riſe and open the door, but in getting up I found much difficulty from want of ſtrength.

In

Having now completed the FIRST PART of my Journal, I ſhall, for the conveniency of the reader, ſubjoin a liſt of the ſtations that are deſcribed therein, as meriting in a particular manner the attention of the Britiſh Society. Some places are alſo inſerted, which, though they did not lie within the line of my laſt journey, have a claim to notice.

I ſhall begin at the ſouth and proceed northward; firſt, along the coaſt of the continent; and ſecondly, among the Hebride Iſles.

In ſelecting the moſt eligible ſtations, I have had a particular regard to,

1. The fiſheries.

2. The harbours, for the conveniency of general navigation, as well as the fiſheries.

In going towards the door, I fell upon the carpet and lay there till the family, who had heard the noiſe, came into the room, where I was found cold, but with ſymptoms of life.

Being immediately conveyed into a room free from ſmoke, this change of air, with the ſimple application of cold water, had a good effect, and I began gradually to diſtinguiſh objects, and to know ſome of the perſons preſent.

Next day, I felt an oppreſſion at my breaſt, with a headach; but the ſubſequent night's ſleep rectified the machine, and gave a new leaſe to a life that was, I have been informed, within five minutes of expiring; that period being the utmoſt time that the lungs could have held out againſt the uncommon preſſure.

3. The number of people in the vicinity of any loch or harbour.

4. The communications with the inland country.

5. Rivers, or freſh water.

6. Fuel, lime-ſtone, free-ſtone, &c.

The places recommended above may be arranged into three diviſions. The firſt claſs, to comprehend the moſt eminent ſtations, which I have printed in ſmall capitals. The ſecond claſs, to compoſe the next ſtations in point of importance; and the third claſs, which requires no farther explanation.

In ſome inſtances, the principal merit of a propoſed ſtation conſiſts in its fiſheries, as Great Loch Broom. In other caſes, it conſiſts in the conveniencies to general navigation, as Tobirmory, Canay, Loch Laxford or Loch Inchard. Again, where the harbours are indifferent, and without fiſheries, the merit of ſuch places depends on the number of people, the fertility of the ſoil, the communications with the interior country, and other favourable circumſtances, as Bernera in Glenelg, where the public are alſo poſſeſſed of forty acres of ground.

STATIONS FOR VILLAGES ON THE CONTINENT.

Names of Stations.	Counties.	Proprietors.
1. Weſt Loch Tarbat,	Argyleſhire,	
2. At CRINAN or LOCH GILP-HEAD,	——	Duke of Argyle, Donald Campbell, Eſq. of Dunſtaffnage.
3. OBAN,	——	
4. Lochnanuach,	Inverneſs-Shire,	John Macdonald, Eſq. of Clanronald.
5. BERNERA in Glenelg,	——	General Macleod.
6. Loch Duich,	Roſs Shire,	F. H. Mackenzie, Eſq. of Seaforth.
7. Loch Carron, or the Bay of Plock in Loch Elſh,	——	Thomas Mackenzie, Eſq. of Applecroſs, F. H. Mackenzie, Eſq. of Seaforth.
8. Loch Torridon,	——	Kenneth Mackenzie, Eſq. of Torridon.
9. Loch Gareloch,	——	Sir H. Mackenzie, Bart. of Gareloch.
10. LOCH EWE,	——	John Mackenzie, Eſq. of Gruinord; Mr. Alex. Mackenzie of Pluckart.
11. Little Loch Broom,	——	Ken. Mackenzie, Eſq. of Dundonald.
12. GREAT LOCH BROOM,	——	Col. Mackenzie of Coul; Kenneth Mackenzie, Eſq. of Dundonald; Lord Macleod.
13. Loch Inver,	——	Counteſs of Sutherland.
14. LOCH LAXFORD, or LOCH INCHARD,	Sutherland-Shire,	Lord Rae.

STATIONS FOR VILLAGES ON THE HEBRIDE ISLANDS.

Names of Stations.	Iſlands.	Proprietors.
1. Loch Dalgaül, or the Harbour of the Small Iſles,	Jura,	Arch. Campbell, Eſq. of Jura.
2. Ramſay Bay,	Liſmore,	
3. TOBERMORY,	Mull,	D. of Argyle; J. Campbell, Eſq. of Knock.
4. Loch Lye,	Sky,	Duke of Argyle.
5. Kirkabul Bay,	Tirey,	Do.
6. Irin,	Coll,	Alex. Maclean, Eſq. of Coll.
7. Canay,	Canay,	John Macdonald of Clanronald.
8. Loch BRACKADALE,	——	General Macleod.
9. Loch Bay,	——	Do.
10. Portree,	——	Lord Macdonald.
11. Elen Oranſay,	——	Do.
12. Loch BOISDALE, Loch EYNORT, or Loch SKIPORT,	South Uiſt,	Colin Macdonald, Eſq. of Boiſdale; John Macdonald, Eſq. of Clanronald.
13. Loch Evort, or Loch Maddy,	North Uiſt,	Lord Macdonald.
14. Tarbat,	Harris,	Capt. Macleod of Harris.
15. Loch Roag,	Lewis,	F. H. Mackenzie, Eſq. of Seaforth.

APPENDIX.

Deſcription of ICOLMKILL, *one of the Hebride Iſlands, by* DR. JOHNSON.

AT laſt we came to ICOLMKILL, but found no convenience for landing. Our boat could not be forced very near the dry ground, and our Highlanders carried us over the water.

We were now treading that illuſtrious Iſland, which was once the luminary of the *Caledonian* regions, whence ſavage Clans and roving barbarians derived the benefits of knowledge, and the bleſſings of religion. To abſtract the mind from all local emotion would be impoſſible, if it were endeavoured, and would be fooliſh, if it were poſſible. Whatever withdraws us from the power of our ſenſes; whatever makes the paſt, the diſtant, or the future predominate over the preſent, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings. Far from me and from my friends, be ſuch frigid philoſophy as may conduct us indifferent and unmoved over any ground which has been dignified by wiſdom, bravery, or virtue. That man is little to be envied, whoſe patriotiſm would not gain force upon the plain of *Marathon*, or whoſe piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of *Iona*.

We came too late to viſit monuments: ſome care was neceſſary for ourſelves. Whatever was in the Iſland Sir *Allan* could demand, for the inhabitants were *Macleans*; but having little they could not give us much. He went to the headman of the Iſland, whom Fame, but Fame delights in amplifying, repreſents as worth no leſs than fifty pounds. He was perhaps proud enough of his gueſts, but ill prepared for our entertainment; however, he ſoon produced more proviſion than men not luxurious require. Our lodging was next to be provided. We found a barn well ſtocked with hay, and made our beds as ſoft as we could.

In the morning we roſe and ſurveyed the place. The churches of the two convents are both ſtanding, though unroofed. They were built of unhewn ſtone, but ſolid, and not inelegant. I brought away rude meaſures of the buildings, ſuch as I cannot much truſt myſelf, inaccurately taken, and obſcurely noted. Mr. *Pennant*'s delineations, which are doubtleſs exact, have made my unſkilful deſcription leſs neceſſary.

The epiſcopal church conſiſts of two parts, ſeparated by the belfry, and built at different times. The original church had, like others, the altar at one end, and tower at the other; but as it grew too ſmall, another building of equal dimenſion was added, and the tower then was neceſſarily in the middle.

That theſe edifices are of different ages ſeems evident. The arch of the firſt church is *Roman*, being part of a circle; that of the additional building is pointed, and therefore *Gothick*, or *Saracenical*; the tower is firm, and wants only to be floored and covered.

Of the chambers or cells belonging to the monks, there

there are ſome walls remaining, but nothing approaching to a complete apartment.

The bottom of the church is ſo incumbered with mud and rubbiſh, that we could make no diſcoveries of curious inſcriptions, and what there are have been already publiſhed. The place is ſaid to be known where the black ſtones lie concealed, on which the old Highland Chiefs, when they made contracts and alliances, uſed to take the oath, which was conſidered as more ſacred than any other obligation, and which could not be violated without the blackeſt infamy. In thoſe days of violence and rapine, it was of great importance to impreſs upon ſavage minds the ſanctity of an oath, by ſome particular and extraordinary circumſtances. They would not have recourſe to the black ſtones, upon ſmall or common occaſions, and when they had eſtabliſhed their faith by this tremendous ſanction, inconſtancy and treachery were no longer feared.

The chapel of the nunnery is now uſed by the inhabitants as a kind of general cow-houſe, and the bottom is conſequently too miry for examination. Some of the ſtones which covered the later abbeſſes have inſcriptions, which might yet be read, if the chapel were cleanſed. The roof of this, as of all the other buildings, is totally deſtroyed, not only becauſe timber quickly decays when it is neglected, but becauſe in an iſland utterly deſtitute of wood, it was wanted for uſe, and was conſequently the firſt plunder of needy rapacity.

The chancel of the nuns' chapel is covered with an arch of ſtone, to which time has done no injury; and a ſmall apartment communicating with the choir, on the north ſide, like the chapter-houſe in cathedrals, roofed with ſtone in the ſame manner, is likewiſe entire.

In one of the churches was a marble altar, which the ſuperſtition of the inhabitants has deſtroyed. Their opinion was, that a fragment of this ſtone was a defence againſt ſhipwrecks, fire, and miſcarriages. In one corner of the church the baſon for holy water is yet unbroken.

The cemetery of the nunnery was, till very lately, regarded with ſuch reverence, that only women were buried in it. Theſe reliques of veneration always produce ſome mournful pleaſure. I could have forgiven a great injury more eaſily than the violation of this imaginary ſanctity.

South of the chapel ſtand the walls of a large room, which was probably the hall, or refectory of the nunnery. This apartment is capable of repair. Of the reſt of the convent there are only fragments.

Beſides the two principal churches, there are, I think, five chapels yet ſtanding, and three more remembered. There are alſo croſſes, of which two bear the names of St. *John* and St. *Matthew*.

A large ſpace of ground about theſe conſecrated edifices is covered with graveſtones, few of which have any inſcription. He that ſurveys it, attended by an inſular antiquary, may be told where the Kings of many nations are buried; and if he loves to ſooth his imagination with the thoughts that naturally riſe in places where the great and the powerful lie mingled with the duſt, let him liſten in ſubmiſſive ſilence; for if he aſks any queſtions, his delight is at an end.

Iona has long enjoyed, without any very credible atteſtation, the honour of being reputed the cemetery of the *Scottiſh* Kings. It is not unlikely, that, when the opinion of local ſanctity was prevalent, the Chieftains of the Iſles, and perhaps ſome of the *Norwegian* or *Iriſh* princes, were repoſited in this venerable encloſure. But by whom the ſubter-

ſubterraneous vaults are peopled is now utterly unknown. The graves are very numerous, and ſome of them undoubtedly contain the remains of men, who did not expect to be ſo ſoon forgotten.

Not far from this awful ground, may be traced the garden of the monaſtery: the fiſhponds are yet diſcernible, and the aqueduct, which ſupplied them, is ſtill in uſe.

There remains a broken building, which is called the Biſhop's houſe, I know not by what authority. It was once the reſidence of ſome man above the common rank, for it has two ſtories and a chimney. We were ſhewn a chimney at the other end, which was only a nich, without perforation; but ſo much does antiquarian credulity, or patriotick vanity prevail, that it was not much more ſafe to truſt the eye of our inſtructor than the memory.

There is in the Iſland one houſe more, and only one, that has a chimney; we entered it, and found it neither wanting repair nor inhabitants; but to the farmers, who now poſſeſs it, the chimney is of no great value; for their fire was made on the floor, in the middle of the room, and notwithſtanding the dignity of their manſion, they rejoiced, like their neighbours, in the comforts of ſmoke.

It is obſerved, that eccleſiaſtical colleges are always in the moſt pleaſant and fruitful places. While the world allowed the monks their choice, it is ſurely no diſhonour that they choſe well. This Iſland is remarkably fruitful. The village near the churches is ſaid to contain ſeventy families, which, at five in a family, is more than a hundred inhabitants to a mile. There are perhaps other villages; yet both corn and cattle are annually exported.

But the fruitfulneſs of *Iona* is now its whole proſperity. The inhabitants are remarkably groſs, and remarkably

neglected: I know not if they are viſited by any Miniſter. The Iſland, which was once the metropolis of learning and piety, has now no ſchool for education, nor temple for worſhip, only two inhabitants that can ſpeak *Engliſh*, and not one that can write or read.

The people are of the Clan of *Macleán*; and though Sir *Allan* had not been in the place for many years, he was received with all the reverence due to their Chieftain. One of them being ſharply reprehended by him, for not ſending him ſome rum, declared after his departure, in Mr. *Boſwell*'s preſence, that he had no deſign of diſappointing him, *for*, ſaid he, '*I would cut my bones for him; and if he had ſent his dog for it, he ſhould have had it.*

When we were to depart, our boat was left by the ebb at a great diſtance from the water, but no ſooner did we wiſh it afloat, than the iſlanders gathered round it, and, by the union of many hands, puſhed it down the beach; every man who could contribute his help ſeemed to think himſelf happy in the opportunity of being, for a moment, uſeful to his Chief.

We now left thoſe illuſtrious ruins, by which Mr. *Boſwell* was much affected, nor would I willingly be thought to have looked upon them without ſome emotion. Perhaps, in the revolutions of the world, *Iona* may be ſometime again the inſtructreſs of the Weſtern Regions.

It was no long voyage to *Mull*, where, under Sir *Allan*'s protection, we landed in the evening, and were entertained for the night by Mr. *Maclean*, a Miniſter that lives upon the coaſt, whoſe elegance of converſation, and ſtrength of judgment, would make him conſpicuous in places of greater celebrity. Next day we dined with Dr. *Maclean*, another phyſician, and then travelled on to the

houſe

houſe of a very powerful Laird, *Maclean* of *Lochbuy*; for in this country every man's name is *Maclean*.

Where races are thus numerous, and thus combined, none but the chief of a clan is addreſſed by his name. The Laird of *Dunvegan* is called *Macleod*, but other gentlemen of the ſame family are denominated by the places where they reſide, as *Raaſa* or *Taliſker*. The diſtinction of the meaner people is made by their Chriſtian names. In conſequence of this practice, the late Laird of *Macfarlane*, an eminent genealogiſt, conſidered himſelf as diſreſpectfully treated, if the common addition was applied to him. Mr. *Macfarlane*, ſaid he, may with equal propriety be ſaid to many; but I, and I only, am *Macfarlane*.

Deſcription of ICOLMKILL, *and the Iſland of* STAFFA, *by* THOMAS PENNANT, *Eſq.*

The iſland belongs to the pariſh of *Roſs*, in *Mull*; is three miles long, and one broad; the eaſt ſide moſtly flat; the middle riſes into ſmall hills; the weſt ſide very rude and rocky: the whole is a ſingular mixture of rock and fertility.

Took boat and landed on the ſpot called the *Bay of Martyrs*: the place where the bodies of thoſe who were to be interred in this holy ground, were received, during the period of ſuperſtition.

Walked about a quarter of a mile to the ſouth, in order to fix on a convenient ſpot for pitching a rude tent, formed of oars and ſails, as our day reſidence, during our ſtay on the iſland.

Obſerve a little beyond, an oblong incloſure, bounded by a ſtone dike, called *Clachnan Druinach*, and ſuppoſed to have been the burial place of the *Druids*, for bones

of various ſizes are found there. I have no doubt but that *Druidiſm* was the original religion of this place; yet I ſuppoſe this to have been rather the common cemetery of the people of the town, which lies almoſt cloſe to the *Bay of Martyrs*.

Having ſettled the buſineſs of our tent, return through the town, conſiſting at preſent of about fifty houſes, moſtly very mean, thatched with ſtraw of bear pulled up by the roots, and bound tight on the roof with ropes made of heath. Some of the houſes that lie a little beyond the reſt ſeemed to have been better conſtructed than the others, and to have been the manſions of the inhabitants when the place was in a flouriſhing ſtate, but at preſent are in a very ruinous condition.

Viſit every place in the order that they lay from the village. The firſt was the ruin of the nunnery, filled with canoneſſes of St. *Auguſtine*, and conſecrated to St. *Oran*. They were permitted to live in community for a conſiderable time after the reformation, and wore a white gown; and above it a rotchet of fine linen *.

The church was fifty-eight feet by twenty: the roof of the eaſt end is entire, is a pretty vault made of very thin ſtones, bound together by four ribs meeting in the centre. The floor is covered ſome feet thick with cow-dung; this place being at preſent the common ſhelter for the cattle; and the iſlanders are too lazy to remove this fine manure, the collection of a century, to enrich their grounds.

With much difficulty, by virtue of fair words, and a bribe, prevail on one of theſe liſtleſs fellows to remove a great quantity of this dung-hill; and by that means once

* *Keith*, 280.

more

more expoſe to light the tomb of the laſt prioreſs. Her figure is cut on the face of the ſtone; an angel on each ſide ſupports her head; and above them is a little plate and a comb. The prioreſs occupies only one half of the ſurface: the other is filled with the form of the virgin MARY, with head crowned and mitred; the child in her arms; and, to denote her *Queen of Heaven*, a ſun and moon appear above. At her feet is this addreſs, from the prioreſs: *Sancta* MARIA *ora pro me.* And round the lady is inſcribed, *Hic jacet Domina* Anna Donaldi Terleti * *filia quondam Prioriſſa de* JONA quæ obiit anº mº dº xiᵐº ejus animam ALTISSIMO commendamus.

Mr. *Stuart*, who ſome time paſt viſited this place, informed me, that at that time he obſerved this fragment of another inſcription: *Hic jacet* Mariota *filia* Johan: Lauchlani *Domini de* . . . .

Beſides this place of ſepulture, was another on the outſide, allotted for the nuns; where, at a reſpectable diſtance from the virtuous recluſes, lies in ſolitude, a frail ſiſter.

Advance from hence along a broad paved way, which is continued in a line from the nunnery to the cathedral: another branches from it to the *Bay of Martyrs*: and a third, narrower than the others, points towards the hills.

On this road is a large and elegant croſs, called that of *Macleane*, one of three hundred and ſixty, that were ſtanding in this iſland at the reformation †, but immediately after were almoſt entirely demoliſhed by order of a provincial aſſembly, held in the iſland. It ſeems to have

* Or *Charles*.

† Short Deſcr. of *Jona*, 1693. Advoc. Libr. M. S.

been

been cuſtomary in *Scotland* for individuals to erect croſſes, probably in conſequence of ſome vow, or perhaps out of a vain hope of perpetuating their memory.

Arrive at *Reilig ouran*, or the burying-place of *Oran*: a vaſt encloſure; the great place of interment for the number of monarchs who were depoſited here; and for the potentates of every iſle, and their lineage; for all were ambitious of lying in this holy ſpot. The place is in a manner filled with grave-ſtones, but ſo overgrown with weeds, eſpecially with the common *butter-bur*, that very few are at preſent to be ſeen.

I was very deſirous of viewing the tombs of the kings, deſcribed by the DEAN of the iſles, and from him by *Buchanan*: the former ſays *, that in his time there were three, built in form of little chapels: on one was inſcribed, *Tumulus Regum Scotiæ*. In this were depoſited the remains of forty-eight *Scottiſh* monarchs, beginning with *Fergus* II. and ending with the famous *Macbeth*: for his ſucceſſor, *Malcolm Canmore*, decreed, for the future, *Dumferline* to be the place of royal ſepulture †. Of the *Scottiſh* monarchs interred in *Jona*, ſixteen are pretended to be of the race of *Alpin*, and are ſtyled, *Righrid Ailpeanach*.

Fergus was the founder of this *Mauſoleum* (*Boethius* calls it *Abbatia* ‡), and not only directed, that it ſhould be the ſepulchre of his ſucceſſors, but alſo cauſed an office to be compoſed for the funeral ceremony.

The next was inſcribed, *Tumulus* REGUM *Hiberniæ*, containing four *Iriſh* monarchs: and the third, *Tumulus* REGUM *Norwegiæ*, containing eight *Norwegian* princes, or more probably viceroys, of the *Hebrides*, while they were ſubject to that crown.

* P. 19.

† *Boethius*, lib. vii. p. 122.

‡ Lib. vii. p. 119.

But of theſe celebrated tombs we could diſcover nothing more than certain ſlight remains, that were built in a ridged form, and arched within; but the inſcriptions were loſt. Theſe are called, *Jomaire nan righ*, or, The ridge of the kings. Among theſe ſtones were found two with *galic* inſcriptions, and the form of a croſs carved on each: the words on one were, *Cros Domhail fat'aſich*, or, The croſs of *Donald Long-ſhanks*: the other ſignified the croſs of *Urchvine o Guin*. The letters were thoſe of the moſt ancient *Iriſh* alphabet, exhibited in *Vallancey*'s *Iriſh* grammar.

Among the ſame ſtones is alſo the following: Hic jacent quatuor Priores de Hy, *Johannes*, *Hugenius*, *Patricius*; in decretis olim Bacularius qui obiit an. Dom. milleſimo quingenteſimo.

I am indebted to Mr. *Stuart* for theſe three inſcriptions, which he met with in his former voyage; arriving before the growth of the all-covering weeds. Mr. *Frazier*, ſon to the DEAN of the iſles, informed Mr. *Sacheverel*, governor of the iſle of *Man*, who viſited *Jona* in 1688, that his father had collected there three hundred inſcriptions, and preſented them to the Earl of *Argyle*; which were afterwards loſt in the troubles of the family.

The chapel of St. *Oran* ſtands in this ſpace, which legend reports to have been the firſt building attempted by St. *Columba*.

In *Oran*'s chapel are ſeveral tombs, and near it many more: within, beneath a receſs formed with three neat-pointed arches, is a tomb-ſtone with a ſhip and ſeveral ornaments. I forget whether the ſails were furled: in that caſe the deceaſe was deſcended from the ancient kings of *Man* of the *Norwegian* † race, who uſed thoſe arms.

* Lib. vi. p. 90.

† Doctor *Macpherſon*.

Near

Near the ſouth end is the tomb of the abbot *Mackinnon*'s father, inſcribed, Hæc eſt crux *Lauchlani Mc. Fingon* et ejus filii *Johannis* Abbatis de Hy. facta an. Dom. m°+cccclxxxix.

Another of *Macdonald* of *Ilay* and *Cantyre*, commonly called *Innus*, or *Angus oig*, the chief of the name. He was a ſtrong friend to *Robert Bruce*, and was with him at the battle of *Bannockbourne*. His inſcription is, Hic jacet corpus *Anguſii* filii Domini *Anguſii Mc. Domhnill de Ilay*.

In another place lies the grave-ſtone of *Ailean Nan Sop*, a *Ceatharnarch*, or head of a party, of the name of *Macleane*; from whom is deſcended the family of *Torloiſg*. The ſtone is ornamented with carving and a ſhip.

A *Macleane*, of *Col*, appears in armour, with a ſword in his left hand. A *Macleane*, of *Duart*, with armour, ſhield and two-handed ſword. And a third, of the ſame name of the family of *Lochbuy*: his right hand graſps a piſtol, his left a ſword. Beſides theſe, are numbers of other ancient heroes, whoſe very names have periſhed, and they deprived of their expected glory: their lives were like the *path of an arrow*, cloſed up and loſt as ſoon as paſt; and probably in thoſe times of barbariſm, as fatal to their fellow-creatures.

About ſeventy feet ſouth of the chapel is a red unpoliſhed ſtone; beneath which lies a nameleſs king of *France*. But the memory of the famous old doctor of *Mull* has had a better fate, and is preſerved in theſe words: *Hic Jacet* Johannes Betonus Maclenorum *familiæ*, *medicus*, *qui mortuus eſt* 19 *Novembris* 1657. *Æt.* 63. Donaldus Betonus fecit. 1674.

A little north-weſt of the door is the pedeſtal of a croſs; on it are certain ſtones, that ſeem to have been the

the ſupports of a tomb. Numbers who viſit this iſland (I ſuppoſe the ELECT impatient for the conſummation of all things) think it incumbent on them to turn each of theſe thrice round, according to the courſe of the ſun. They are called *Clacha-bràth*; for it is thought that the *bràth*, or end of the world, will not arrive till the ſtone on which they ſtand is worn through. Originally, ſays Mr. *Sacheverel*, here were three noble globes, of white marble, placed on three ſtone baſons, and theſe were turned round; but the ſynod ordered them, and ſixty croſſes, to be thrown into the ſea. The preſent ſtones are probably ſubſtituted in place of theſe globes.

The precinct of theſe tombs was held ſacred, and enjoyed the privileges of a *Girth*, or ſanctuary*. Theſe places of retreat were by the ancient *Scotch* law, not to ſhelter indiſcriminately every offender, as was the caſe in more bigotted times in *catholic* countries: for here all atrocious criminals were excluded; and only the unfortunate delinquent, or the pepitent ſinner ſhielded from the inſtant ſtroke of rigorous juſtice. The laws are penned with ſuch humanity and good ſenſe, that the reader cannot be diſpleaſed with ſeeing them in their native ſimplicity †.

'Gif any fleis to HALIE KIRK moved with repentance 'confeſſes there that he heavilie ſinned, and for the love 'of GOD is come to the houſe of GOD for ſafetie of him-'ſelf, he ſall nocht tine life nor limme bot quhat he has 'taken frae anie man he ſall reſtore ſae-meikill to him, 'and ſall ſatisfie the King according to the law of the 'countrie.

* *Fordun*, lib. II. c 10.

† From the *Regiam majeſtatem*,

'And

'And ſwa ſall ſwere upon the HALIE EVANGELL that 'there-after he ſall never commit reif nor theift. *Alex.* 'II. c. 6.

'If ane manſlayer takes himſelf to the immunitie of 'the *Kirk* he ſould be admoniſſed and required to come 'forth and preſent himſelf to the law; to knaw gif the 'ſlauchter was committed be forthocht felonie or mur-'ther.

'And gif he be admoniſſed and will not come furth; 'fra that time furth in all time thereafter he ſal be ba-'niſhed and exiled as ane committer of murther and 'forethocht felonie; keep and reſervand to him the im-'munitie of the kirk to the whilk he take himſelf.' *Rob.* II. c. 9.

Particular care was alſo taken that they ſhould receive no injury during their retreat: penalties were enacted for even ſtriking; but for the murder of any, 'The King was 'to have from the ſlayer twentye nine kyes and ane zoung 'kow; and the offender was alſo to aſſithe to the friends 'of the defunct conforme to the laws of the cuntrie. *Wil.* c. 5.

The cathedral lies a little to the north of this incloſure: is in the form of a croſs. The length from eaſt to weſt is a hundred and fifteen feet. The breadth twenty three. The length of the tranſept ſeventy. Over the centre is a handſome tower: on each of which is a window with ſtone work of different forms in every one.

On the ſouth ſide of the chancel are ſome Gothic arches ſupported by pillars, nine feet eight inches high, including the capitals; and eight feet nine inches in circumference. The capitals are quite peculiar; carved round with various ſuperſtitious figures; among others is an angel weighing of ſouls.

The

The altar was of white marble veined with grey, and is vulgarly ſuppoſed to have reached from ſide to ſide of the chancel: but Mr. *Sacheverel* *, who ſaw it when almoſt entire, aſſures us, that the ſize was ſix feet by four.

The demolition of this ſtone was owiſig to the belief of the ſuperſtitious; who were of opinion, that a piece of it conveyed to the poſſeſſor ſucceſs in whatever he undertook. A very ſmall portion is now left; and even that we contributed to diminiſh.

Near the altar is the tomb of the abbot *Mac-kinnon*. His figure lies recumbent, with this inſcription round the margin: *Hic jacet* Johannes Mac-Fingone *abbas de* Hy, *qui obiit anno Domini Milleſimo quingenteſimo cujus animæ propitietur* DEUS *altiſſimus. Amen.*

On the other ſide is the tomb and figure of Abbot *Kenneth*.

On the floor is the effigy of an armed knight, with a whilk by his ſide, as if he juſt had returned from the feaſt of ſhells in the hall of *Fingal*.

All the tombs lie eaſt and weſt; the head to the weſt; probably from a ſuperſtition that at the general reſurrection, they may riſe with their faces to the eaſt.

It is difficult to ſay when the preſent church was built: if we may credit *Boethius*, it was rebuilt by *Malduinus*, in the ſeventh century, out of the ruins of the former. But the preſent ſtructure is far too magnificent for that age. Moſt of the walls are built with red granite from the *Nuns Iſle* in the ſound.

From the ſouth eaſt corner are two parallel walls about twelve feet high, and ten feet diſtant from each other. At

* P. 132.

preſent

preſent they are called *Dorus tràgh*, or the door to the ſhore: are ſuppoſed to have been continued from the cathedral to the ſea, to have been roofed, and to have formed a covered gallery the whole way.

In the church yard is a fine croſs, fourteen feet high, two feet two inches broad, and ten inches thick, made of a ſingle piece of red granite. The pedeſtal is three feet high.

Near the ſouth eaſt end is *Mary*'s chapel. Beſides this, we are informed, that there were ſeveral others founded by the *Scottiſh* monarchs, and the *Reguli* of the iſles *.

The monaſtery lies behind the cathedral. It is in a moſt ruinous ſtate; a ſmall remnant of a cloiſter is left. In a corner are ſome black ſtones, held ſo ſacred, but for what reaſon I am ignorant, that it was cuſtomary to ſwear by them: perhaps from their being neighbours to the tutelar ſaint, whoſe grave is almoſt adjacent.

Boethius † gives this monaſtery an earlier antiquity than perhaps it can juſtly claim. He ſays, that after the defeat of the *Scots*, at the battle of *Munda*, A. D. 379, the ſurvivors with all religious fled to this iſland; and were the original founders of this houſe. But the account given by the venerable *Bede* is much more probable, that St. *Columba* was the original founder.

North of the monaſtery are the remains of the biſhop's houſe; the reſidence of the biſhops of the iſles after the iſle of *Man* was ſeparated from them. This event happened in the time of *Edw.* I. On their arrival the abbots permitted to them the uſe of their church, for they never

* *Buchanan*, lib. I. c. 37. Dean of the Iſles, 19.

† Lib. vi. p. 108, 109.

had

had a cathedral of their own, except that in the iſle of *Man*. During the time of the *Norwegian* reign, which laſted near two hundred years, the biſhops were choſen without reſpect of country, for we find *French*, *Norwegian*, *Engliſh*, and *Scotch* among the prelates; and they were generally, but not always, conſecrated at *Drontheim*. This ſee was endowed with * thirteen iſlands; but ſome of them were forced from them by the tyranny of ſome of the little chieftains; thus, for example, *Raſa*, as the honeſt DEAN ſays, was pertaining to *Mac-Gyllychallan* by the ſword, and to the biſhop of the iſles by heritage.

Proceed on our walk. To the weſt of the convent is the abbot's mount, overlooking the whole. Beneath ſeem to have been the gardens, once well cultivated, for we are told that the monks tranſplanted from other places herbs both eſculent and medicinal.

Beyond the mount are the ruins of a kiln, and a granary: and near it was the mill. The lake or pool that ſerved it lay behind; it is now drained, and is the turbery, the fuel of the natives: it appears to have been once divided, for along the middle runs a raiſed way, pointing to the hills. They neglect at preſent the conveniency of a mill, and uſe only *querns*.

North from the granary extends a narrow flat, with a double dike and foſs on one ſide, and a ſingle dike on the other. At the end is a ſquare containing a *cairn* and ſurrounded with a ſtone dike. This is called a burial place: it muſt have been in very early times cotemporary with other *cairns*, perhaps in the days of *Druidiſm*. For biſhop *Pocock* mentions, that he had ſeen two ſtones ſeven feet high, with a third laid acroſs on their tops, an evident

* The Dean.

Cromleh: he alſo adds, that the *Iriſh* name of the iſland was *Iniſh Druniſh*; which agrees with the account I have ſomewhere read, that *Jona* had been the ſeat of *Druids* expelled by *Columba*, who found them there.

Before I quit this height, I muſt obſerve, that the whole of their religious buildings were covered on the north ſide by dikes, as a protection from the northern invaders, who paid little regard to the ſanctity of their characters.

At preſent, this once celebrated ſeat of learning is deſtitute of even a ſchool-maſter; and this ſeminary of holy men wants even a miniſter to aſſiſt them in the common duties of religion.

Croſs the iſland over a moſt fertile elevated tract to the ſouth weſt ſide, to viſit the landing place of St. *Columba*; a ſmall bay, with a pebbly beach, mixed with variety of pretty ſtones, ſuch as violet-coloured *Quartz*, *Nephritic* ſtones, and fragments of porphyry, granite and *Zœblitz* marble: a vaſt tract near this place was covered with heaps of ſtones, of unequal ſizes; theſe, as is ſaid, were the penances of monks, who were to raiſe heaps of dimenſions equal to their crimes: and to judge by ſome, it is no breach of charity to think there were among them enormous ſinners.

The traveller muſt not neglect to aſcend the hill of *Dun-ii*; from whoſe ſummit is a moſt picturesque view of the long chain of little iſlands, neighbours to this; of the long low iſles of *Col* and *Tir-I* to the weſt; and the vaſt height of *Rum* and *Skie* to the north.

At eight of the clock in the morning, with the firſt fair wind we yet had, ſet ſail for the ſound: the view of *Jona*, its cluſtered town, the great ruins, and the fertility

tility of the ground, were fine contraſts, in our paſſage to the red granite rocks of the barren *Mull*.

Loch-Screban, in *Mull*, ſoon opens to our view. After paſſing a cape, placed in our maps far too projectingly, ſee *Loch-in-a-Gaal*; a deep bay, with the iſles of *Ulva* and *Gometra* in its mouth.

On the weſt appears the beautiful groupe of the *Treaſhuniſh* iſles *. Neareſt lies STAFFA, a new giant's cauſeway, riſing amidſt the waves; but with columns of double the height of that in *Ireland*; gloſſy and reſplendent, from the beams of the eaſtern ſun. Their greateſt height was at the ſouthern point of the iſle, of which they ſeemed the ſupport. They decreaſed in height in proportion as they advanced along that face of *Staffa* oppoſed to us, or the eaſtern ſide; at length appeared loſt in the formleſs ſtrata: and the reſt of the iſland that appeared to us was formed of ſlopes to the water edge, or of rude but not lofty precipices. Over part of the iſle, on the weſtern ſide, was plainly to be ſeen a vaſt precipice, ſeemingly columnar, like the preceding. I wiſhed to make a nearer approach, but the prudence of Mr. *Thomſon*, who was unwilling to venture in theſe rocky ſeas, prevented my farther ſearch of this wondrous iſle: I could do no more than cauſe an accurate view to be taken of its eaſtern ſide, and of thoſe of the other picturesque iſlands then in ſight. But it is a great conſolation to me, as well as to the public, that I am able to ſay, *Fluſt drin yalerick Dwuldom praſtrad mirpuſh.*

* Theſe are moſt erroneouſly placed in the maps, a very conſiderable diſtance too far to the North.

Account of STAFFA, *communicated to Mr.* PENNANT *by* JOSEPH BANKS, *Eſq.*

" In the ſound of *Mull* we came to anchor, on the *Morvern* ſide, oppoſite to a gentleman's houſe, called *Drumnen*: the owner of it, Mr. *Macleane*, having found out who we were, very cordially aſked us aſhore: we accepted his invitation, and arrived at his houſe; where we met an *Engliſh* gentleman, Mr. *Leach* *, who no ſooner ſaw us than he told us, that about nine leagues from us was an iſland where he believed no one even in the highlands had been †, on which were pillars like thoſe of the *Giant's-Cauſeway*: this was a great object to me who had wiſhed to have ſeen the cauſeway itſelf, would time have allowed: I therefore reſolved to proceed directly, eſpecially as it was juſt in the way to the *Columb-kill*; accordingly having put up two days proviſions, and my little tent, we put off in the boat about one o'clock for our intended voyage, having ordered the ſhip to wait for us in *Tobirmore*, a very fine harbour on the *Mull* ſide.

" At nine o'clock, after a tedious paſſage, having had not a breath of wind, we arrived, under the direction of Mr. *Macleane*'s ſon, and Mr. *Leach*. It was too dark to ſee any thing, ſo we carried our tent and baggage near the only houſe upon the iſland, and began to cook our ſup-

* I cannot but expreſs the obligations I have to this gentleman for his very kind intentions of informing me of this matchleſs curioſity; for I am informed that he purſued me in a boat for two miles, to acquaint me with what he had obſerved: but unfortunately for me, we out-ſailed his liberal intention.

† When I lay in the ſound of *Jona*, two gentlemen from the iſle of *Mull*, and whoſe ſettlements were there, ſeemed to know nothing of this place; at leaſt they never mentioned it as any thing wonderful.

pers, in order to be prepared for the earlieſt dawn, to enjoy that which from the converſation of the gentlemen we had now raiſed the higheſt expectations of.

" The impatience which every body felt to ſee the wonders we had heard ſo largely deſcribed, prevented our morning's reſt; every one was up and in motion before the break of day, and with the firſt light arrived at the S. W. part of the iſland, the ſeat of the moſt remarkable pillars; where we no ſooner arrived than we were ſtruck with a ſcene of magnificence which exceeded our expectations, though formed, as we thought, upon the moſt ſanguine foundations: the whole of that end of the iſland ſupported by ranges of natural pillars, moſtly above 50 feet high, ſtanding in natural colonnades, according as the bays or points of land formed themſelves: upon a firm baſis of ſolid unformed rock, above theſe, the ſtratum which reaches to the ſoil or ſurface of the iſland, varied in thickneſs, as the iſland itſelf formed into hills or vallies; each hill, which hung over the columns below, forming an ample pediment; ſome of theſe above 60 feet in thickneſs, from the baſe to the point, formed by the ſloping of the hill on each ſide, almoſt into the ſhape of thoſe uſed in architecture.

" Compared to this what are the cathedrals or the palaces built by man! mere models or playthings, imitations as diminutive as his works will always be when compared to thoſe of nature. Where is now the boaſt of the architect? Regularity, the only part in which he fancied himſelf to exceed his miſtreſs, Nature, is here found in her poſſeſſion, and here it has been for ages undeſcribed *. Is not this the ſchool where the art was

* *Staffa* is taken notice of by *Buchanan*, but in the ſlighteſt manner;

originally ſtudied, and what had been added to this by the whole *Grecian* ſchool? a capital to ornament the column of nature, of which they could execute only a model; and for that very capital they were obliged to a buſh of *Acanthus*: how amply does nature repay thoſe who ſtudy her wonderful works!

" With our minds full of ſuch reflections we proceeded along the ſhore, treading upon another *Giant's Cauſeway*, every ſtone being regularly formed into a certain number of ſides and angles, till in a ſhort time we arrived at the mouth of a cave, the moſt magnificent, I ſuppoſe, that has ever been deſcribed by travellers.

" The mind can hardly form an idea more magnificent than ſuch a ſpace, ſupported on each ſide by ranges of columns; and roofed by the bottoms of thoſe, which have been broke off in order to form it; between the angles of which a yellow ſtalagmitic matter has exuded, which ſerves to define the angles preciſely; and at the ſame time vary the colour with a great deal of elegance; and to render it ſtill more agreeable, the whole is lighted from without; ſo that the fartheſt extremity is very plainly ſeen from without, and the air within being agitated by the flux and reflux of the tides, is perfectly dry and wholeſome, free entirely from the damp vapours with which natural caverns in general abound.

" We aſked the name of it: ſaid our guide, the cave of *Fiuhn*; what is *Fiuhn?* ſaid we, *Fiuhn Mac Coul*, whom the tranſlator of *Oſſian's* works has called *Fingal*. How

ner; and among the thouſands who have navigated theſe ſeas, none have paid the leaſt attention to its grand and ſtriking characteriſtic, till this preſent year.

This iſland is the property of Mr. *Lauchlan Mac-Quarie*, of *Ulva*, and is now to be diſpoſed of.

fortunate

fortunate that in this cave we ſhould meet with the remembrance of that chief, whoſe exiſtence, as well as that of the whole *Epic* poem, is almoſt doubted in *England*.

" Enough for the beauties of *Staffa*; I ſhall now proceed to deſcribe it and its productions more philoſophically:

" The little iſland of *Staffa* lies on the weſt coaſt of *Mull*, about three leagues N. E. from *Jona*, or the *Columb Kill*: its greateſt length is about an *Engliſh* mile, and its breadth about half a one. On the weſt ſide of the iſland is a ſmall bay, where boats generally land: a little to the ſouthward of which the firſt appearance of pillars is to be obſerved; they are ſmall, and inſtead of being placed upright, lie down on their ſides, each forming a ſegment of a circle: from thence you paſs a ſmall cave, above which, the pillars now grown a little larger, are inclining in all directions: in one place in particular a ſmall maſs of them very much reſembles the ribs of a ſhip*: from hence having paſſed the cave, which if it is not low water, you muſt do in a boat, you come to the firſt ranges of pillars, which are ſtill not above half as large as thoſe a little beyond. Over againſt this place is a ſmall iſland, called in *Erſe*, *Boo-ſha-la*, ſeparated from the main, by a channel not many fathoms wide; this whole iſland is compoſed of pillars without any ſtratum above them: they are ſtill ſmall, but by much the neateſt formed of any about the place.

* The *Giant's Cauſeway* has its bending pillars; but I imagine them to be very different from theſe. Thoſe I ſaw were erect, and ran along the face of a high cliff, bent ſtrangely in their middle, as if unable, at their original formation, while in a ſoft ſtate, to ſupport the maſs of incumbent earth that preſſed on them.

" The firſt diviſion of the iſland, for at high water it is divided into two, makes a kind of a cone, the pillars converging together towards the centre: on the other, they are in general laid down flat, and in the front next to the main, you ſee how beautifully they are packed together; their ends coming out ſquare with the bank which they form: all theſe have their tranſverſe ſections exact, and their ſurfaces ſmooth, which is by no means the caſe with the large ones, which are cracked in all directions. I much queſtion, however, if any one of this whole iſland of *Boo-ſha-la*, is two feet in diameter.

" The main iſland oppoſite to *Boo-ſha-la* and farther towards the N. W. is ſupported by ranges of pillars pretty erect, and, though not tall (as they are not uncovered to the baſe), of large diameters; and at their feet is an irregular pavement, made by the upper ſides of ſuch as have been broken off, which extends as far under water as the eye can reach. Here the forms of the pillars are apparent; theſe are of three, four, five, ſix and ſeven ſides; but the numbers of five and ſix, are by much the moſt prevalent. The largeſt I meaſured was of ſeven; it was four feet five inches in diameter. I ſhall give the meaſurement of its ſides, and thoſe of ſome other forms which I met with:

No. 1. 4 ſides diam. 1 ft. 5 in. No. 2. 5 ſides diam. 2 ft. 10 in.

	Ft.	In.		Ft.	In.
Side 1	1	5	1	1	10
2	1	1	2	1	10
3	1	6	3	1	5
4	1	1	4	1	7½
			5	1	8

No.

No. 3. 6 ſides diam. 3 ft. 6 in.

1	0	10
2	2	2
3	2	2
4	1	11
5	2	2
6	2	9

No. 4. 7 ſides diam. 4 ft. 5 in.

1	2	10
2	2	4
3	1	10
4	2	0
5	1	1
6	1	6
7	1	3

" The ſurfaces of theſe large pillars in general are rough and uneven, full of cracks in all directions; the tranſverſe figures in the upright ones never fail to run in their true directions: the ſurfaces upon which we walked were often flat, having neither concavity nor convexity: the larger number however were concave, though ſome were very evidently convex; in ſome places the interſtices within the perpendicular figures were filled up with a yellow ſpar: in one place a vein paſſed in among the maſs of pillars, carrying here and there ſmall threads of ſpar. Though they were broken and cracked through and through in all directions, yet their perpendicular figures might eaſily be traced: from whence it is eaſy to infer, that whatever the accident might have been, that cauſed the diſlocation, it happened after the formation of the pillars.

" From hence proceeding along ſhore, you arrive at *Fingal*'s cave: its dimenſions though I have given, I ſhall here again repeat in the form of a table:

" Length

	Ft.	In.
" Length of the cave from the rock without,	371	6
From the pitch of the arch, -	250	0
Breadth of ditto, at the mouth, - -	53	7
At the farther end, - -	20	0
Height of the arch at the mouth, -	117	6
At the end, - -	70	0
Height of an outside pillar, -	39	6
Of one at the N. W. corner, -	54	0
Depth of water at the mouth, - -	18	0
At the bottom, - - -	9	0

The cave runs into the rock in the direction of N. E. by E. by the compass.

" Proceeding farther to the N. W. you meet with the highest ranges of pillars, the magnificent appearance of which is past all description: here they are bare to their very basis, and the stratum below them is also visible: in a short time it rises many feet above the water, and gives an opportunity of examining its quality. Its surface rough, and has often large lumps of stone sticking in it, as if half immersed; itself, when broken is composed of a thousand heterogeneous parts, which together have very much the appearance of a *Lava*; and the more so as many of the lumps appear to be of the very same stone of which the pillars are formed: this whole stratum lies in an inclined position, dipping gradually towards the S. E. As hereabouts is the situation of the highest pillars, I shall mention my measurements of them and the different strata in this place, premising that the measurements were made with a line, held in the hand of a person who stood at the top of a cliff, and reaching to the bottom, to the lower end of which was tied a white mark, which was observed by one who staid below for the

the purpoſe: when this mark was ſet off from the water, the perſon below noted it down, and made ſignal to him above, who made then a mark in his rope: whenever this mark paſſed a notable place, the ſame ſignal was made, and the name of the place noted down as before: the line being all hauled up, and the diſtances between the marks meaſured and noted down, gave, when compared with the book kept below, the diſtances, as for inſtance in the cave:

"No. 1. in the book below, was called from the water to the foot of the firſt pillar in the book above; No. 1. gave 36 feet 8 inches, the higheſt of that aſcent, which was compoſed of broken pillars.

No. 1. Pillar at the weſt corner of *Fingal*'s cave.

		Ft.	In.
1	From the water to the foot of the pillar,	12	10
2	Height of the pillar, - -	37	3
3	Stratum above the pillar, -	66	9

No. 2. *Fingal*'s cave.

1	From the water to the foot of the pillar,	36	8
2	Height of the pillar, - -	39	6
3	From the top of the pillar to the top of the arch, - - - -	31	4
4	Thickneſs of the ſtratum above	34	4
	By adding together the three firſt meaſurements, we got the height of the arch from the water,	117	6

No. 3, Corner pillar to the weſtward of *Fingal*'s cave.

Stratum below the pillar of *Lava* like matter,	11	0
Length of the pillar, - - -	54	0
Stratum above the pillar, - -	61	6

No. 4.

No. 4. Another pillar to the weſtward.

Stratum below the pillar,	17	1
Height of the pillar,	50	0
Stratum above,	51	1

No. 5. Another pillar farther to the Weſtward.

Stratum below the pillar,	19	8
Height of the pillar,	55	1
Stratum above,	54	7

"The ſtratum above the pillars, which is here mentioned, is uniformly the ſame, conſiſting of numberleſs ſmall pillars, bending and inclining in all directions, ſometimes ſo irregularly that the ſtones can only be ſaid to have an inclination to aſſume a columnar form; in others more regular, but never breaking into, or diſturbing the ſtratum of large pillars, whoſe tops every where keep an uniform and regular line.

"Proceeding now along ſhore round the North end of the iſland, you arrive at *Oua na ſcarve*, or the *Corvorant's Cave*: here the ſtratum under the pillars is lifted up very high; the pillars above it are conſiderably leſs than thoſe at the N. W. end of the iſland, but ſtill very conſiderable. Beyond is a bay, which cuts deep into the iſland, rendering it in that place not more than a quarter of a mile over. On the ſides of this bay, eſpecially beyond a little valley, which almoſt cuts the iſland into two, are two ſtages of pillars, but ſmall; however having a ſtratum between them exactly the ſame as that above them, formed of innumerable little pillars, ſhaken out of their places and leaning in all directions."

"Having paſſed this bay, the pillars totally ceaſe; the rock is of a dark-brown ſtone, and no ſigns of regularity occur

occur till you have paſſed round the S. E. end of the iſland (a ſpace almoſt as large as that occupied by the pillars), which you meet again on the Weſt ſide, beginning to form themſelves irregularly, as if the ſtratum had an inclination to that form, and ſoon arrive at the bending pillars where I began.

"The ſtone of which the pillars are formed, is a coarſe kind of *Baſaltes*, very much reſembling the *Giant's Cauſeway* in *Ireland*, though none of them are near ſo neat as the ſpecimens of the latter, which I have ſeen at the *Britiſh Muſeum*; owing chiefly to the color, which in ours is a dirty brown, in the *Iriſh* a fine black: indeed the whole production ſeems very much to reſemble the *Giant's Cauſeway*; with which I would willingly compare it, had I any account of the former before me*."

Viſit, ſays Mr. Pennant, a high hill, called *Briismhawl*, in *Sky*, about a mile South of *Talyſkir*, having in the front a fine ſeries of genuine baſaltic columns, reſembling the *Giant's Cauſeway*: the pillars were above twenty feet high, conſiſting of four, five and ſix angles, but moſtly of five: the columns leſs frequently jointed than thoſe of the *Iriſh*; the joints being at great and unequal diſtances, but the majority are entire: even thoſe that are jointed are leſs concave and convex on their oppoſite ſurface than the columns of the former. The ſtratum that reſted on this colonnade was very irregular and ſhattery, yet ſeemed to make ſome effort at form. The ruins of the columns at the baſe made a grand appearance: theſe were the ruins of the creation: thoſe of

* As this account is copied from Mr. *Banks*'s journal, I take the liberty of ſaying (what by this time that gentleman is well acquainted with) that *Staffa* is a genuine maſs of *Baſaltes*, or *Giant's Cauſeway*; but in moſt reſpects ſuperior to the *Iriſh* in grandeur.

Rome,

Rome, the work of human art, ſeem to them but as the ruins of yeſterday.

At a ſmall diſtance from theſe on the ſlope of a hill is a tract of ſome roods entirely formed of the tops of ſeveral ſeries of columns, even and cloſe ſet, forming a reticulated ſurface of amazing beauty and curioſity. This is the moſt northern *Baſaltes* I am acquainted with; the laſt of four in the *Britiſh* dominions, all running from South to North, nearly in a meridian: the *Giant's Cauſeway* appears firſt; *Staffa* ſucceeds; the rock *Humbla* about twenty leagues further,* and finally the column of *Briis-mhawl*: the depth of ocean in all probability conceal the loſt links of this chain.

Deſcription of St. KILDA *or* HIRT, *by Mr.* MARTIN.

The firſt of theſe Names is taken from one *Kilder*, who lived here, and from him the large Well *Tonbir-Kilda* has alſo its name. *Hirta* is taken from the *Iriſh Ier*, which in that language ſignifies *Weſt*; this iſle lies directly oppoſite to the iſles of *N. Uiſt*, *Harries*, &c. It is reckoned 18 leagues from the former, and 20 from *Harries*. This iſle is by *Peter Goas*, in a map he made out of it at *Roterdam*, called St. *Kilder*; it is the remoteſt of all the *Scots North-weſt* iſles: It is about two miles in length, and one in breadth; it is faced all round with a ſteep rock, except the Bay on the *South-caſt*, which is not a harbour fit for any veſſel, though in the time of a calm, one may land upon the rock, and get up into the iſland with a little climbing. The land riſes pretty high in the middle, and there is one mountain higher than any other part of the

* This rock lies to the Weſt of Canay Iſland, and is compoſed of Baſaltic pillars. The diſcovery was made by Mr. Murdoch Mackenzie, when ſurveying that coaſt.

iſland.

iſland. There are ſeveral Fountains of good water on each ſide this iſle. The corn produced here is oats and barley, the latter is the largeſt in the weſtern iſles.

There is an ancient Fort, on the *South-end* of the bay, called *Dun-fir Volg*, i. e. the Fort of the *Volſcij*, this is the ſenſe put upon the word by the *Antiquaries* of the oppoſite iſles of *Uiſt*.

The Iſle *Soa*, is near half a mile diſtant from the *Weſt-ſide* of St. *Kilda*; it is a mile in circumference, very high, and ſteep all round. *Borera* lies above two leagues N. of St. *Kilda*, it is near a mile in circumference, the moſt of it ſurrounded with a high rock; the largeſt and the two leſſer iſles are good for paſturage, and abound with a prodigious number of ſea-fowl; from *March* till *September*, the *Solan* Geeſe are very numerous here, in ſo much that the inhabitants commonly keep yearly above twenty thouſand young and old in their little ſtone houſes, of which there are ſome hundreds for preſerving their fowls, eggs, &c. They uſe no ſalt for preſerving their fowl; the eggs of the ſea wild-fowl are preſerved ſome months in the aſhes of peats, and are aſtringent to ſuch as are not accuſtomed to eat them.

There is a barren tribe of *Solan* Geeſe, that keep always together, and never mix among the reſt that build and hatch. The *Solan* Geeſe come to thoſe iſlands in *March*, taking the advantage of a *South weſt* wind; before their coming, they ſend a few of their number, as Harbingers before them, and when they have made a tour round the iſles, they return immediately to their company, and in a few days after the whole flock comes together, and ſtays till *September*; the natives make a pudding of the fat of this fowl, in the ſtomach of it, and boil it in their water-gruel, which they call *Brochan*, they drink it likewiſe for

removing the cough: it is by daily experience found to be an excellent vulnerary.

The inhabitants eat the *Solan* Gooſe-egg raw, and by experience find it to be a good peƈtoral. The *Solan* geeſe are daily making up their neſts from *March* till *September*, they make them in the ſhelves of high rocks, they fiſh, hatch, and make their neſts by turns, and they amaſs for this end a great heap of graſs, and ſuch other things as they catch floating on the water; the ſteward of St. *Kilda* told me that they had found a red coat in a neſt, a braſs ſun-dial, and an arrow, and ſome *Molucca* beans in another neſt. This *Solan* Gooſe is believed to be the ſharpeſt ſighted of all ſea fowls, it preſerves five or ſix herrings in its gorget entire, and carries them to the neſt, where it ſpews them out to ſerve as food to the young ones; they are obſerved to go a fiſhing to ſeveral iſles that lie about thirty leagues diſtant, and carry the fiſh in their gorget all that way, and this is confirmed by the Engliſh hooks, which are found ſticking to the fiſh-bones in their neſts, for the natives have no ſuch hooks among them.

They have another bird here called *Fulmar*; it is a grey fowl, about the ſize of a *Moor* hen; it has a ſtrong bill with wide noſtrils; as often as it goes to ſea, it is a certain ſign of a weſtern wind, for it ſits always on the rock, when the wind is to blow from any other quarter. This fowl, the natives ſay, picks its food out of live whales, and that it eats ſorrel, for both thoſe ſorts of food are found in its neſt. When any one approaches the *Fulmar*, it ſpouts out at its bill, about a quart of pure oil; the natives ſurpriſe the fowl, and preſerve the oil, and burn it in their lamps; it is good againſt *Rheumatick* pains and aches in the bones; the inhabitants of the adjacent iſles value it as a *Catholicon* for diſeaſes; ſome take it for a vomit, others for a purge.

It

It has been ſucceſsfully uſed againſt *Rheumatick* pains in *Edinburgh*, and *London*; in the latter it has been lately uſed to aſſuage the ſwelling of a ſtrained foot, a cheek ſwelled with the tooth-ach, and for diſcuſſing a hard boil, and proved ſucceſsful in all the three caſes.

There is plenty of cod, and ling, of a great ſize, round this iſle, the improvement of which might be of great advantage.

One of the inhabitants of St. *Kilda* being ſome time ago wind bound in the iſle of *Harries*, was prevailed on by ſome of them that traded to *Glaſgow* to go thither with them. He was aſtoniſhed at the length of the voyage, and of the great kingdoms, as he thought them, that is, iſles by which they ſailed; the largeſt in his way did not exceed twenty-four miles in length, but he conſidered how much they exceeded his own little native country.

Upon his arrival at *Glaſgow*, he was like one that had dropt from the clouds into a new world; whoſe language, habit, &c. were in all reſpects new to him; he never imagined that ſuch big houſes of ſtone were made with hands; and for the pavements of the ſtreets, he thought it muſt needs be altogether natural; for he could not believe that men would be at the pains to beat ſtones into the ground to walk upon. He ſtood dumb at the door of his lodging with the greateſt admiration: and when he ſaw a coach and two horſes, he thought it to be a little houſe they were drawing at their tail, with men in it; but he condemned the coachman for a fool to ſit ſo uneaſy, for he thought it ſafer to ſit on the horſe's back. The mechaniſm of the coach-wheel, and its running about, was the greateſt of all his wonders.

When he went through the ſtreets, he deſired to have one to lead him by the hand. *Thomas Roſs* a merchant,

and others, that took the diverſion to carry him through the town, aſked his opinion of the high church? He anſwered, that it was a large rock, yet there were ſome in *St. Kilda* much higher, but that theſe were the beſt caves he ever ſaw; for that was the idea which he conceived of the pillars and the arches upon which the church ſtands. When they carried him into the church, he was yet more ſurpriſed, and held up his hands with admiration, wondering how it was poſſible for men to build ſuch a prodigious fabric, which he ſuppoſed to be the largeſt in the univerſe. He could not imagine what the pews were deſigned for, and he fancied the people that wore maſks (not knowing whether they were men or women) had been guilty of ſome ill thing, for which they dared not ſhew their faces. He was amazed at women's wearing patches, and fancied them to have been bliſters. Pendants ſeemed to him the moſt ridiculous of all things; he condemned periwigs mightily, and much more the powder uſed in them; in fine, he condemned all things as ſuperfluous that he had not ſeen in his own country. He looked with amazement on every thing that was new to him. When he heard the church bells ring he was under a mighty conſternation, as if the fabric of the world had been in great diſorder. He did not think there had been ſo many people in the world, as in the city of *Glaſgow*; and it was a great myſtery to him to think what they could all deſign by living ſo many in one place. He wondered how they could all be furniſhed with proviſion, and when he ſaw big loaves, he could not tell whether they were bread, ſtone, or wood. He was amazed to think how they could be provided with ale, for he never ſaw any there that drank water. He wondered how they made them fine cloaths, and to ſee ſtockings made without being firſt cut, and afterwards

afterwards ſewn, was no ſmall wonder to him. He thought it fooliſh in women to wear thin ſilks, as being a very improper habit for ſuch as pretended to any ſort of employment. When he ſaw the women's feet, he judged them to be of another ſhape than thoſe of the men, becauſe of the different ſhape of their ſhoes. He did not approve of the heels of ſhoes worn by men or women; and when he obſerved horſes with ſhoes on their feet, and faſtened with iron nails, he could not forbear laughing, and thought it the moſt ridiculous thing that ever fell under his obſervation. He longed to ſee his native country again, and paſſionately wiſhed it were bleſſed with ale, brandy, tobacco and iron, as *Glaſgow* was.

Deſcription of St. KILDA, *and the Fowls which frequent that Iſland, by the Rev. Mr.* MACAULAY.

On the 6th day of June 1758, I looſed from Harris, a part of that large track of land now called the Long-Iſland, and formerly the weſtern Ebuda. We ſteered our courſe for Haw-Skeer, a rock in the ocean, ſo its name ſignifies in the Galic tongue, lying at the diſtance of ſeven leagues from the neareſt promontory of North-Uiſt, to which it belongs. As the day was quite ſultry, and Haw-Skeer the only reſting place in our way, and extremely romantic, the crew found it convenient to reſt a little and divert themſelves there.

This rock is half a mile in circumference, acceſſible in a ſingle place only, and though almoſt totally deſtitute of graſs, is of ſome conſequence to the proprietor, being at ſtated periods the conſtant haunt of a prodigious number of ſeals, and theſe perhaps by much the largeſt upon the coaſt of Scotland. The manner in which theſe ſea animals are hunted down in this place, the ſeaſon fit for that pro-

fitable diverſion, the ferocity and little ſtratagems of theſe unweildly creatures when aſſaulted, their love dalliances upon other occaſions, that violent ſpirit of jealouſy with which they are actuated, if provoked by rivals; theſe and ſome other particulars, are circumſtantially enough related by Martin in his deſcription of the Weſtern Iſles. To his account of the matter I ſhall only add, that the fat of the ſeals is by the people, to whoſe ſhare that perquiſite falls, converted now into oil and ſent to market. But in that writer's time, and for ages immemorial before, this, together with the fleſh of theſe animals, was eaten, either freſh or ſalted; and by thoſe who were uſed to it, was accounted a pleaſant as well as a very ſalubrious and rich kind of aliment.

On the weſt ſide of the rock, are two remarkably large caves, of a conſiderable height: To theſe a vaſt multitude of ſea cormorants retire every evening. Here likewiſe they lay their eggs and foſter their young. The method practiſed by the iſlanders for catching fowls of this kind, while ſecured within ſuch faſtneſſes, is far from being incurious, though abundantly ſimple; nor is the paſtime at all diſagreeable. A band of young fellows make a party, and after having provided themſelves with a quantity of ſtraw or heath, creep with great caution to the mouth of the cave which affords the game, armed with poles light enough to be eaſily wielded: This done, they ſet fire to the combuſtible ſtuff, and raiſe an univerſal ſhout; the cormorants, alarmed by the outcry, frightened by a glare ſo ſtrange, and offended by the ſmoke, quit their beds and neſts with the greateſt precipitation, and fly directly towards the light: Here the ſportſmen, if alert enough, will knock down a conſiderable number of them, and, together with the cormorants, whole coveys of pigeons.

At

At Haw-Skeer we found incredible numbers of wild fowl eggs. After ſome of my people had made a great, though unneceſſary acquiſition of theſe (unneceſſary ſurely to men deſtined for St. Kilda), we began to purſue our intended voyage, at ten o'clock at night. The wind was at firſt extremely favourable, as it blew from the ſouth-eaſt, and was little more than a gentle gale. It began to freſhen at the end of half an hour, and was gathering new ſtrength every moment: Before we had proceeded above four leagues, the whole face of the ſky was overcaſt with clouds; which, after the ſevereſt threatenings, burſted aſunder and tumbled down upon us in violent torrents of rain, accompanied with flaſhes of lightning and peals of thunder extremely terrible. All this was ſucceeded by a hurricane which would have alarmed the moſt inſenſible, and did greatly confound the ſtouteſt ſeamen among us, men who had imagined they had ſeen theſe ſame mighty waters in all their horrors. To me it was matter of aſtoniſhment that a veſſel ſo ſmall and frail, a ſix-oared highland boat, could have ſtruggled for any time againſt ſuch enormous billows, without either being overſet or daſhed to pieces.

The firſt glimpſe of hope my crew had, was from a great flight of ſea-fowls, of the diving kind, which was ſoon ſucceeded by another, and after ſhort intervals by many more, in ſtill greater numbers. They concluded, from this circumſtance, that the hour of their deliverance was at hand; but we found that our hopes were too ſanguine and premature [Virgil ranks this circumſtance among inauſpicious prognoſtics, and experience has convinced me, that this obſervation, and all the reſt he has made on the ſubject of the weather, are perfectly juſt], for the ſtorm continued to rage for

about ſix hours, before we had the almoſt deſpaired of happineſs of ſpying a rock, which lies at the diſtance of a mile from the bay of St. Kilda. The current round about this rock is exceedingly impetuous, and ſo its name Liviniſh implies, Lhibb in the old Britiſh language ſignifying a ſtream or torrent.

In a little time after we had doubled the point of Liviniſh, I diſcovered a ſtrangely formed wall of dreary rocks, which face a part of St. Kilda. Theſe rocks appearing through the medium of a very thick fog, roſe to our view, to a ſtupendous height, though quite inconſiderable, we afterwards found, if compared to others on the ſame coaſt.

In a few moments more, we came cloſe to the ordinary landing place, which is nothing elſe than a ſolid rock, ſloping gradually down to the bottom of the ſea, and all overgrown with Lichen Marinus, or the plant commonly called Laver in England, and Slawk in Scotland.

As the wind blew with all its fury into the bay, and as the waves daſhed themſelves with exceſſive violence againſt the rock, juſt now deſcribed, it was impoſſible to attempt a landing. Reduced to almoſt the laſt extremity, we dropped anchor before the Saddle, and made a ſhift to ſtand there for five hours more in a moſt diſtreſsful condition, drenched all over, ſhivering with cold, and under the dreadful apprehenſion of being ſwallowed up every moment.

The machine conſtantly made uſe of inſtead of the anchor, by thoſe who make annual voyages to St. Kilda, is a large hamper made of ſtrong wicker and nearly filled up with ſtones. The foulneſs of the ground is the argument they bring to juſtify a practice ſo uncommon. How far they may be in the right, ſeafaring men are beſt able to determine. One thing I am ſure of, that we made uſe of our anchor without ſuffering the leaſt inconvenience; though the ſurf roſe to ſuch a height that ten fathoms of

our

our cable were alternately buried in the ſea, or perfectly viſible. The truth is, the anceſtors of thoſe men who carry on a ſort of a commerce with this iſland, had recourſe to the ſimple expedient of the hamper, before navigation had made any tolerable progreſs in their country, and for that reaſon their poſterity ſeem to retain the ſame cuſtom.

The people of St. Kilda, upon the firſt notice they had of our arrival on their coaſt, flew down from the village to our aſſiſtance, men, women, and children. From their behaviour upon the rock, to which we lay pretty cloſe, it evidently appeared that they have humanity enough to feel deeply for fellow creatures in diſtreſs. It was impoſſible for us to underſtand the meaning of their cries; only we had reaſon to believe that they were greatly affected by our danger. From the repeated ſignals they made, we concluded at laſt, that in their opinion, we might ſafely weigh. Truſting to their ſuperior ſkill, and our patience being quite exhauſted, we took the hint without loſs of time. But after approaching the Saddle, in ſpite of our united efforts, we were ſoon reduced to the diſagreeable neceſſity of ſheering off.

A little to the weſt of this rock, there is a ſandy beach, acceſſible only at low water. Here is a ſort of landing-place though extremely dangerous, and for that reaſon ſeldom attempted, unleſs the weather be very favourable. To this beach the people ran in a body, after having directed us to the ſame place. We obeyed willingly, and they, with an amazing intrepidity flew into the water to meet us; a moſt deſperate adventure, in which any other race of men would hardly think of engaging, were they to ſee their neareſt relations in the ſame danger. The diſpoſition they made was this: After having divided and formed themſelves into two lines, the two ableſt men among them marched forward into the ſea, each in the front of his own

little corps. Thoſe next in ſtrength and ſtature, ſeized theſe two leaders by the middle, and the reſt, from one end of each row to the other, clung faſt to thoſe immediately before them, wading forward till thoſe who were foremoſt in the rank, and after them every one elſe in the order in which he ſtood, got hold of the boat. Thoſe who go from year to year to St. Kilda, always take the precaution to wrap a ſtrong rope round the ſtern of their boat, and tie another to the prow. As ſoon as the St. Kildians have poſted themſelves round it, they immediately hand about the two ropes from one to another, till the women and children who ſtand upon the beach come at it, ſo as to have their ſhare of the work. This operation, which is ſo very neceſſary, being ſoon over, a general ſignal is given, and every individual exerts himſelf with all his ſtrength and ſpirit: The conſequence is, the boat and every thing contained in it, are with ſurpriſing quickneſs and dexterity hauled in beyond the reach of the ſea.

All the ſtrength of this art was, with the greateſt alacrity, tried upon this occaſion, and with a ſucceſs beyond any thing I could have expected. Without giving time to any one of us to jump out into the water, the St. Kildians hoiſted up, almoſt in a moment, our little veſſel, ourſelves, and all the luggage that belonged to us, to a dry part of the ſtrand.

In St. Kilda, the miſerable may find relief as well as elſewhere. We were received there by a very hoſpitable race of Barbarians (if any one incline to call them ſo) with the heartieſt congratulations, the ſincereſt profeſſions of friendſhip, and the ſtrongeſt demonſtrations of a profound reſpect.

It is thought perhaps by many, that thoſe who inhabit that diviſion of the weſtern Highlands, are much the rudeſt, the moſt brutal and mercileſs, and in one word, the moſt ſavage-like men within the kingdom of Great

Britain.

Britain. Whether that opinion be ſtrictly juſt or not, is ſubmitted to thoſe, and to thoſe only, who have ſenſe and virtue enough to diveſt themſelves of popular or early prejudices. One thing I may adventure to affirm, without committing the ſmalleſt treſpaſs againſt truth, that thoſe ſeafaring people, who have the misfortune to be ſhipwrecked about the weſtern Iſlands, or are reduced to extreme diſtreſs there, are treated with much greater humanity and chriſtian benevolence, than many of their fellow ſufferers, whoſe harder fate drives them to the more barbarous ſhores of ſome diviſions of Scotland, and England. It is certain, that theſe unhappy perſons would meet with ſtronger marks of true politeneſs, or, what is infinitely more valuable, of real compaſſion and generoſity at St. Kilda, than in the more civilized places I now allude to.

Theſe rocks are in ſummer totally covered with ſolan geeſe and other fowls, and appear at a diſtance like ſo many mountains covered with ſnow. The neſts of the ſolan geeſe, not to mention thoſe of other fowls, are ſo cloſe, that, when one walks between them, the hatching fowls on either ſide can always take hold of one's clothes, and they will often ſit until they are attacked, rather than expoſe their eggs to the danger of being deſtroyed by the ſea-gulls; at the ſame time an equal number fly about, and furniſh food for their mates that are employed in hatching; and there are, beſides, large flocks of barren fowls of the different tribes that frequent the rocks of St. Kilda.

The ſolan geeſe equal almoſt the tame ones in ſize. The common amuſement of the herring-fiſhers ſhew the great ſtrength of this fowl. The fiſhers fix a herring upon a board which has a ſmall weight under it, to ſink it a little below the ſurface of the ſea: the ſolan gooſe, obſerving the fiſh, darts down upon it perpendicularly, and with ſo much force, that he runs his bill irrecoverably through the board, and is taken up directly by the fiſhers.

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The ſolan geeſe repair to St. Kilda, in the month of March, and continue there till after the beginning of November. Before the middle of that month, they, and all the other ſea-fowls that are fond of this coaſt, retire much about the ſame time into ſome other favourite regions; ſo that not a ſingle fowl belonging to their element is to be ſeen about St. Kilda, from the beginning of winter down to the middle of February. Before the young ſolan geeſe fly off, they are larger than their mothers, and the fat on their breaſts is ſometimes three inches deep. Into what quarter of the world theſe tribes of wild fowl repair, after winter ſets in, whether into the northern ocean, the native country and winter quarters of herrings in general, or into ſome other region near the ſun, or whether they be of the ſleeping kind, they who pry into the myſteries of natural hiſtory, or have converſed much with writers of voyages, can beſt explain. I ſhall only pretend to ſay, that theſe different nations of the feathered kind are taught to chooſe the propereſt habitations and feeding places, and to ſhift their quarters ſeaſonably, by the unerring hand of God.

From the account given above of the multitudes of ſea-fowls that ſeek their food on this coaſt, we may juſtly conclude, that there muſt be inexhauſtible ſtores of fiſh there. Let us for a moment confine our attention to the conſumption made by a ſingle ſpecies of fowls. The ſolan gooſe is almoſt inſatiably voracious; he flies with great force and velocity, toils all the day with very little intermiſſion, and digeſts his food in a very ſhort time; he diſdains to eat any thing worſe than herring or mackarel, unleſs it be in a very hungry place, which he takes care to avoid or abandon. We ſhall take it for granted, that there are 100,000 of that kind around the rocks of St. Kilda; and this calculation is by far too moderate, as no leſs than

20,000

20,000 of this kind are deſtroyed every year, including the young ones. We ſhall ſuppoſe, at the ſame time, that the ſolan geeſe ſojourn in theſe ſeas for about ſeven months of the year; that each of them deſtroys five herrings in a day; a ſubſiſtence infinitely poor for ſo greedy a creature, unleſs it were more than half ſupported at the expence of other fiſhes. Here we have 100,000,000 of the fineſt fiſh in the world devoured annually by a ſingle ſpecies of the St. Kilda ſea-fowls.

If in the next place it be conſidered, that much the greateſt part of the other tribes have much the ſame appetite for herring, and purſue it from place to place, in the ſeveral migrations it makes from one ſea to another, the conſumption muſt be prodigiouſly great. Taking theſe into the account, and allowing them the ſame quantity of food, and of the ſame kind, by reaſon of their vaſt ſuperiority in point of numbers, though their ſtomachs are conſiderably weaker; we ſee there are no leſs than 200,000,000 of herrings ſwallowed up every year by the birds of a very ſmall diſtrict of rocks, which occupy ſo inconſiderable a ſpace in the Ducaledonian ocean.

Should all the articles of this account be ſuſtained, articles which ſeem no leſs juſt than plain, and ſhould our curioſity lead us into a new calculation, allowing between ſix and ſeven hundred to every barrel, it is evident that more than 330,000 barrels are annually carried away by ſuch creatures.

Deſcription of the Iſlands of RONA *and* BARA, *by Mr.* MARTIN.

The Iſland Rona is reckoned about 20 leagues from the north-eaſt point of Neſs in Lewis, and counted but a mile in length, and about half a mile in breadth; it hath a hill in the weſt part, and is only viſible from the Lewis in a fair ſummer's-day. I had an account of this little Iſland, and the cuſtom of it from ſeveral

ral natives of Lewis, who had been upon the place; but more particularly from Mr. Daniel Moriſon, Miniſter of Barvas, after his return from Rona Iſland, which then belonged to him, as part of his Gleib. Upon my landing (ſays he) the natives received me very affectionately; and addreſſed me with their uſual ſalutation to a ſtranger, "God "ſave you, Pilgrim, you are heartily welcome here! for we "have had repeated apparitions of your perſon among us (af-"ter the manner of the ſecond ſight), and we heartily con-"gratulate your arrival in this our remote country." One of the natives would needs expreſs his high eſteem for my perſon, by making a turn round about me ſun-ways, and at the ſame time bleſſing me, and wiſhing me all happineſs; but I bid him let alone that piece of homage, telling him I was ſenſible of his good meaning towards me: but this poor man was not a little diſappointed, as were alſo his neighbours; for they doubted not but this ancient ceremony would have been very acceptable to me; and one of them told me, that this was a thing due to my character from them, as to their chief and patron, and could not, nor would not fail to perform it. They conducted me to the little village, where they dwell, and in the way thither there were three incloſures; and as I entered each of theſe, the inhabitants ſeverally ſaluted me, taking me by the hand, and ſaying, "Traveller, you are welcome here." They went along with me to the houſe that they had aſſigned for my lodging; where there was a bundle of ſtraw laid on the floor, for a ſeat to me to ſit upon; after a little time was ſpent in general diſcourſe, the inhabitants retired to their reſpective dwelling houſes; and in this interval, they killed each man a ſheep, being in all five, anſwerable to the number of their families. The ſkins of the ſheep were entire, and ſlead off ſo, from the neck to the tail, that they were in form like a ſack: Theſe ſkins being ſlead off after this manner, were by the inhabitants inſtantly filled with barley meal

meal; and this they gave me by way of a preſent: one of their number acted as ſpeaker for the reſt, ſaying, "Traveller, "we are very ſenſible of the favour you have done us in com- "ing ſo far with a deſign to inſtruct us in our way to happi- "neſs, and at the ſame time to venture yourſelf on the great "ocean: Pray, be pleaſed to accept of this ſmall preſent, "which we humbly offer as an expreſſion of our ſincere love "to you." This I accepted though in a very coarſe dreſs, but, it was given with ſuch an air of hoſpitality and good-will, as deſerved thanks: they preſented my man alſo with ſome pecks of meal, as being likewiſe a traveller; the boats-crew having been in Rona before, were not reckoned ſtrangers, and therefore there was no preſent given them, but their daily maintenance.

There is a Chapel here dedicated to St. Ronan, fenced with a ſtone wall round it; and they take care to keep it neat and clean, and ſweep it every day. There is an altar in it on which there lies a big plank of wood, about ten foot in length, every foot has a hole in it, and in every hole a ſtone, to which the natives aſcribe ſeveral virtues; one of them is ſingular, as they ſay, for promoting ſpeedy deli- very to a woman in travel.

They repeat the Lord's Prayer, creed and ten com- mandments in the chapel every Sunday morning. They have cows, ſheep, barley and oats, and live a harmleſs life, being perfectly ignorant of moſt of thoſe vices that abound in the world: They know nothing of money or gold, having no occaſion for either: They neither ſell nor buy, but only barter for ſuch little things as they want; they covet no wealth, being fully content and ſatisfied with food and raiment; though at the ſame time they are very preciſe in the manner of property among themſelves; for none of them will by any means allow his neighbour to fiſh within his property; and every one muſt exactly ob-

ſerve

ſerve not to make any incroachment on his neighbour. They have an agreeable and hoſpitable temper for all ſtrangers; they concern not themſelves about the reſt of mankind, except the inhabitants in the north part of Lewis. They take their ſirname from the colour of the ſky, rainbow, and clouds. There are only five families in this ſmall Iſland, and every tenant hath his dwelling-houſe, a barn, a houſe where their beſt effects are preſerved, a houſe for their cattle, and a porch on each ſide of the door to keep off the rain or ſnow. Their houſes are built with ſtone, and thatched with ſtraw, which is kept down with ropes of the ſame, pois'd with ſtones. They wear the ſame habit with thoſe in Lewis, and ſpeak only Iriſh. When any of them comes to the Lewis, which is ſeldom, they are aſtoniſhed to ſee ſo many people. They much admire grey-hounds, and love to have them in their company. They are mightily pleaſed at the ſight of horſes, and one of them obſerving a horſe to neigh, aſked if that horſe laughed at him. A boy from Rona perceiving a colt run towards him, was ſo much frighted at it that he jumped into a buſh of nettles, where his whole ſkin became full of bliſters.

Another of the natives of Rona, having had the opportunity of travelling as far as Coul, in the Shire of Roſs, which is the ſeat of Sir Alexander Mac-kenzie, every thing he ſaw there was ſurpriſing to him, and when he heard the noiſe of thoſe who walked in the rooms above him, he preſently fell to the ground, thinking thereby to ſave his life, for he ſuppoſed that the houſe was coming down over his head. When Mr. Moriſon, the Miniſter, was in Rona, two of the natives courted a maid with intention to marry her, and being married to one of them afterwards, the other was not a little diſappointed becauſe there was no other match for him in this Iſland. The wind blowing fair, Mr. Moriſon ſailed directly for Lewis, but after three hours

ſailing

ſailing was forced back to Rona, by a contrary wind, and at his landing the poor man that had loſt his ſweetheart was overjoyed, and expreſſed himſelf in theſe words; I bleſs God and Ronan that you are returned again, for I hope you will now make me happy, and give me a right to enjoy the woman every other year by turns, that ſo we both may have iſſue by her; Mr. Moriſon could not refrain from ſmiling at this unexpected requeſt, chid the poor man for his unreaſonable demand, and deſired him to have patience for a year longer, and he would ſend him a wife from Lewis; but this did not eaſe the poor man, who was tormented with the thoughts of dying without iſſue.

Another who wanted a wife, and having got a ſhilling from a ſeaman that happened to land there, went and gave this ſhilling to Mr. Moriſon to purchaſe him a wife in the Lewis, and ſend her to him, for he was told that this piece of money was a thing of extraordinary value, and his deſire was gratified the enſuing year.

About fourteen years ago a ſwarm of rats, but none knows how, came into Rona, and in a ſhort time eat up all the corn in the Iſland. In a few months after ſome ſeamen landed there, who robbed the poor people of their bull. Theſe misfortunes and the want of ſupply from Lewis for the ſpace of a year, occaſioned the death of all that ancient race of people. The Steward of St. Kilda being by a ſtorm driven in there, told me that he found a woman with her child on her breaſt, both lying dead at the ſide of a rock: Some years after, the Miniſter (to whom the Iſland belongeth) ſent a new colony to this Iſland, with ſuitable ſupplies. The following year a boat was ſent to them with ſome more ſupplies, and orders to receive the rents; but the boat being loſt as it is ſuppoſed, I can give no further account of this late Plantation.

The Rock Bara lieth four leagues to the eaſt of Rona, it is a quarter of a mile in circumference, and

abounds with great numbers of Sea-fowl, ſuch as Solan Geeſe, Guillamote, Coulter-Neb, Puffin, and ſeveral other ſorts. The fowl called the Colk is found here; it is leſs than a gooſe, all covered with down, and when it hatches it caſts its feathers, which are of divers colours; it has a tuft on it's head reſembling that of a Peacock, and a train longer than that of a Houſe-cock; but the hen has not ſo much ornament and beauty.

Hiſtory of FISH, *and the* NORTHERN FISHERIES.

OF FISH.

The ocean is the great receptacle of fiſhes. It has been thought by ſome, that all fiſh are naturally of that ſalt element, and that they have mounted up into freſh water by ſome accidental migration. A few ſtill ſwim up rivers to depoſit their ſpawn; but of the great body of fiſhes, of which the ſize is enormous, and the ſhoals are endleſs, thoſe all keep to the ſea, and would quickly expire in freſh water. In that extenſive and undiſcovered abode, thouſands reſide, whoſe manners are a ſecret to us, and whoſe very form is unknown. The curioſity of mankind, indeed, has drawn ſome from their depths, and their wants many more: with the figure of theſe, at leaſt, he is acquainted; but for their purſuits, migrations, ſocieties, and manner of bringing forth, theſe are all hidden in the turbulent element that protects them.

The number of fiſh to which we have given names, and of the figure, at leaſt, of which we know ſomething, according to Linnæus, are above 400. Thus, to appearance, the hiſtory of fiſh is tolerably copious; but when we come to examine, it will be found that of the greateſt part of theſe we know very little. Thoſe qualities, ſingularities, or advantages, that render animals worth naming, ſtill remain to be diſcovered.

Moſt fiſh offer us the ſame external form; ſharp at either end, and ſwelling in the middle; by which they are enabled

to

to traverſe the fluid which they inhabit with greater celerity and eaſe. That peculiar ſhape which nature has granted moſt fiſhes, we endeavour to imitate in ſuch veſſels as are deſigned to ſail with the greateſt ſwiftneſs; however, the progreſs of a machine moved forward in the water by human contrivance, is nothing to the rapidity of an animal deſigned by nature to reſide there. Any of the large fiſh overtake a ſhip in full ſail with great eaſe, play round it without effort, and outſtrip it with pleaſure. Every part of the body ſeems exerted in this diſpatch; the fins, the tail, and the motion of the whole back-bone, aſſiſt progreſſion; and it is to that flexibility of body, at which art cannot arrive, that fiſhes owe their great velocity.

The chief inſtruments in a fiſh's motion, are the fins; which, in ſome fiſh, are much more numerous than in others. A fiſh completely fitted for ſailing, is furniſhed with, at the leaſt, two pair; alſo three ſingle fins, two above and one below. Thus equipped, it migrates with the utmoſt rapidity, and takes voyages of 1000 leagues in a ſeaſon. But it does not always happen that ſuch fiſh as have the greateſt number of fins have the ſwifteſt motion; the ſhark is thought to be one of the ſwifteſt ſwimmers, yet it wants the ventral or belly fins; the haddock does not move ſo ſwift, yet is completely fitted for motion.

But the fins ſerve not only to aſſiſt the animal in progreſſion, but in riſing or ſinking, in turning, or even leaping out of the water. To anſwer theſe purpoſes, the pectoral fins ſerve, like oars, to put the animal forward: they are placed at ſome little diſtance behind the opening of the gills; they are generally large and ſtrong, and anſwer the ſame purpoſes to the fiſh in the water, as wings do to a bird in the air. With the help of theſe, and by their continued motion, the flying-fiſh is ſometimes ſeen to riſe out of the water, and to fly above an hundred yards; till fatigued with its exertions, it is obliged to ſink down again.

But the tail, which in ſome fiſhes is flat, and upright in others, ſeems the grand inſtrument of motion: the fins are but ſubſervient to it, and give direction to its great impetus, by which the fiſh ſeems to dart forward with ſo much velocity.

The ſenſe of touching, which beaſts and birds have in a ſmall degree, the fiſh, covered up in its coat of mail, conſiſting of various ſubſtances, can have little perception of. The ſenſe of ſmelling, which in beaſts is ſo exquiſite, and among birds is not wholly unknown, ſeems given to fiſhes in a very moderate proportion. Of taſting, they ſeem to make very little diſtinction; the palate of moſt fiſh is hard and bony, and conſequently incapable of the power of reliſhing different ſubſtances. Hearing, in fiſhes, is ſtill more imperfect, if it be found at all. Seeing, ſeems to be the ſenſe fiſhes are poſſeſt of in the greateſt degree; and yet even this ſeems obſcure, if we compare it to that of other animals.

From all this, it appears how far fiſh fall behind terreſtrial animals in their ſenſations, and conſequently in their enjoyments. Thus nature ſeems to have fitted theſe animals with appetites and powers of an inferior kind; and formed them for a ſort of paſſive exiſtence in the obſcure and heavy elements to which they are conſigned. To preſerve their own exiſtence, and to continue it to their poſterity, fill up the whole circle of their purſuits and enjoyments; to theſe they are impelled rather by neceſſity than choice, and ſeem mechanically excited to every fruition. Their ſenſes are incapable of making any diſtinctions; but they drive forward in purſuit of whatever they can ſwallow, conquer, or enjoy.

A ceaſeleſs deſire of food ſeems to give the ruling impulſe to all their motions. This appetite impels them to encounter every danger; and indeed their rapacity ſeems inſatiable. Even when taken out of the water, and almoſt

expiring

expiring, they greedily ſwallow the very bait by which they were allured to deſtruction. Some that have very ſmall mouths feed upon worms, and the ſpawn of other fiſh: others, whoſe mouths are larger, ſeek larger prey; it matters not of what kind, whether of another or their own. Thoſe with the largeſt mouths purſue almoſt every thing that has life; and often meet each other in fierce oppoſition, when the fiſh with the largeſt ſwallow comes off with the victory, and devours its antagoniſt.

Thus are they irritated by the continual deſire of ſatisfying their hunger; and the life of a fiſh, from the ſmalleſt to the greateſt, is but one ſcene of hoſtility, violence, and evaſion. But the ſmaller fry ſtand no chance in the unequal combat; and their uſual way of eſcaping, is by ſwimming into thoſe ſhallows where the greater are unable, or too heavy to purſue. There they become invaders in turn, and live upon the ſpawn of larger fiſh, which they find floating on or near the ſurface of the water; yet there are dangers attending them in every place. Even in the ſhallows, the muſcle, the oyſter, and the ſcallop, lie in ambuſh at the bottom, with their ſhells open, and whatever little fiſh inadvertently approaches into contact, they at once cloſe their ſhells upon them, and devour the impriſoned prey at their leiſure.

Nor is the purſuit of fiſhes, like that of terreſtrial animals, confined to a ſingle region, or to one effort: ſhoals of one ſpecies follow thoſe of another through vaſt tracks of ocean, from the vicinity of the pole even down to the equator. Thus the cod, from the banks of Newfoundland, purſues the whiting, which flies before it even to the ſouthern ſhores of Spain. The cachalot, a ſpecies of whale, is ſaid, in the ſame manner, to purſue a ſhoal of herrings, and to ſwallow hundreds in a mouthful.

This may be one cauſe of the annual migration of fiſhes from one part of the ocean to the other; but there are dif-

ferent motives, which come in aid of this alſo. Fiſhes may be induced to change the place of their reſidence, for one more ſuited to their conſtitutions, or more adapted to depoſiting their ſpawn.

All ſorts of fiſh, a few of the larger ones excepted, multiply their kind, ſome by hundreds and ſome by millions. There are ſome that bring forth their young alive, and ſome that only produce eggs: the former are rather the leaſt fruitful: yet even theſe are ſeen to produce in great abundance. The viviparous blenny, for inſtance, brings forth 2 or 300 at a time, all alive and playing round the parent together. Thoſe who exclude their progeny in a more imperfect ſtate, and produce eggs, which they are obliged to leave to chance, either on the bottom at the edge of the ſhore, or floating on the ſurface of deep water, are all much more prolific; and ſeem to proportion their ſtock to the danger there is of its conſumption. Of theſe eggs thus depoſited, ſcarce one in an hundred brings forth an animal: they are devoured by all the leſſer fry that frequent the ſhores; by aquatic birds near the margin, and by the larger fiſh in deep water. Still, however, there are enough for ſupplying the deep with inhabitants: and, notwithſtanding their own rapacity, and that of the fowls of various tribes, the numbers that eſcape are ſufficient to relieve the wants of a very conſiderable part of mankind. Indeed, when we conſider the numbers that a ſingle fiſh is capable of producing, the amount will ſeem aſtoniſhing.

Among other writers, Mr. Harmer has inveſtigated this ſubject with uncommon attention; and the following table gives the reſult of his inquiries. The weights he uſed were avoirdupoiſe, and he reckoned 437½ grains to an ounce. See Phil. Tranſ. vol. 57, for 1767, art. xxx. page 280.

Abſtract

Abſtract of the Table.

Fiſh	Weight. oz.	dr.	Weight of Spawn. Grains.	Fecundity Eggs.	Time.
Carp	25	8	2571	203109	April 4.
Cod fiſh	——		12540	3686760	Dec. 23.
Flounder	24	4	2200	1357400	Mar. 14.
Herring*	5	10	480	36960	Oct. 25.
Lobſter	36	0	1671	21699	Aug. 11.
Mackarel	18	0	1223½	546681	June 18.
Perch	8	9	765½	28323	April 5.
Pike	56	4	5100½	49304	April 25.
Prawn	(127 grains)		——	3806	May 12.
Roach	10	6½	361	81586	May 2.
Shrimp	(39 grains)		7	6807	May 3.
Smelt	2	0	149½	38278	Feb. 21.
Soal	14	8	542½	100362	June 13.
Tench	40	0	——	383252	May 28.

Such an amazing increaſe, if permitted to come to maturity, would over-ſtock nature; and even the ocean itſelf would not be able to contain, much leſs to provide for the half of its inhabitants. But two wiſe purpoſes are anſwered by this amazing increaſe; it preſerves the ſpecies in the midſt of numberleſs enemies, and ſerves to furniſh the reſt with a ſuſtenance adapted to their nature.

All fiſhes, except the whale kind, are entirely diveſted of thoſe parental ſolicitudes which ſo ſtrongly mark the manner of the more perfect terreſtrial animals. They have different ſeaſons for depoſiting their ſpawn; ſome, that live in depths of the ocean, are ſaid to chooſe the winter months; but, in general, thoſe with which we are acquainted, chooſe the hotteſt months in ſummer, and prefer ſuch water as is ſomewhat warmed by the beams of the

* The ſeemingly miſtake in the comparative weight of the fiſh is accounted for in the original paper, Mr. Hanmer having weighed ſome fiſh of an uncommon ſize, as the Flounder, and others of under ſize, as the Herring.

ſun. They then leave the deepeſt parts of the ocean, which are the coldeſt, and ſhoal round the coaſts, or ſwim up the freſh-water rivers, that are warm as they are comparatively ſhallow. When they have depoſited their burdens, they then return to their old ſtations, and leave their progeny to ſhift for themſelves.

The ſpawn continues in its egg-ſtate in ſome fiſh longer than in others, and this in proportion to the animal's ſize. In the ſalmon for inſtance, the young animal continues in the egg from the beginning of December till the beginning of April; the carp continues in the egg not above three weeks; the little gold fiſh from China is produced ſtill quicker. Theſe all, when excluded, at firſt eſcape by their minuteneſs and agility. They riſe, ſink, and turn much readier than grown fiſh; and they can eſcape into very ſhallow waters when purſued. But, with all their advantages, ſcarce one in a thouſand ſurvives the numerous perils of its youth. The very male and female that have given them birth, are equally dangerous and formidable with the reſt, forgetting all relation at their departure.

Such is the general practice of theſe heedleſs and hungry creatures: but there are ſome in this claſs, living in the waters, that are poſſeſſed of finer organs, and higher ſenſations; and have all the tenderneſs of birds and quadrupeds for their young; that nurſe them with conſtant care, and protect them from every injury. Of this claſs are the *cetaceous* tribe, or the fiſhes of the whale kind. There are others, though not capable of nurſing their young, yet that bring them alive into the world, and defend them with courage and activity. Theſe are the *cartilaginous* kinds, or thoſe who have griſtles inſtead of bones. But the fierce unmindful tribe we have been deſcribing, that leave their ſpawn without any protection,

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are called the *ſpinous*, or bony kinds, from their bones reſembling the ſharpneſs of thorns.

Thus there are three grand diviſions in the fiſh kind: the *cetaceous* the *cartilaginous*, and the *ſpinous*; all differing from each other in their conformation, their appetites, in their bringing forth, and in their care of their young. Theſe three great diſtinctions are not the capricious difference formed by a maker of ſyſtems, but are ſtrongly and firmly marked in nature. Theſe are the diſtinctions of Ariſtotle; and they have been adopted by mankind ever ſince his time.

As on land, there are ſome orders of animals that ſeem formed to command the reſt, with greater powers and more various inſtincts, ſo in the ocean there are fiſhes which ſeem formed upon a nobler plan than others, and that, to their fiſhy form, join the appetites and the conformation of quadrupeds. Theſe all are of the cetaceous kind, which are raiſed as many degrees above other fiſhes in their nature, as they are in general in their ſize. This tribe is compoſed of the whale, and its varieties, of the cachalot, the dolphin, the grampus, and the porpus. Theſe fiſh never produce above one young, or two at the moſt, at a time; and this the female ſuckles entirely in the manner of quadrupeds; her breaſts being placed, as in the human kind, above the navel.

It is not only upon land that man hath exerted his power of deſtroying the larger tribes of quadrupeds; he has extended his efforts even in the midſt of the ocean; and has cut off numbers of thoſe enormous animals that had poſſibly exiſted for ages. We now no longer hear of whales from 200 to 250 feet long, which were often ſeen about two centuries ago. They have all been de-

ſtroyed by the ſkill of mankind, and the ſpecies is now dwindled into a race of diminutive animals, from 30 to 80 feet long.

The northern ſeas of Spitſbergen and Greenland were once the region to which the largeſt of theſe animals reſorted; but ſo great has been the deſtruction of whales ſince the reign of queen Elizabeth, that they begin to grow thinner every year; and thoſe that are found there, ſeem, from their ſize, not come to their full dimenſions. The greateſt whales reſort to places where they have the leaſt diſturbance; to thoſe ſeas that are on the oppoſite ſide of the globe, near the ſouth pole. In this part of the world, there are ſtill to be ſeen whales about 160 feet long; and perhaps even longer might be found in thoſe latitudes near the ſouth pole, to which we have not as yet ventured.

Though this magnitude be wonderful, yet ſtill greater wonders may poſſibly be concealed in the deep, which we have not had opportunities of exploring. The whales are obliged to ſhew themſelves in order to take breath; but who knows the ſize of thoſe animals that are fitted to remain for ever under water, and that have been increaſing in magnitude for centuries?

We have ſeen that fiſhes of the cetaceous kind bear a ſtrong reſemblance to quadrupeds in their conformation; thoſe of the cartilaginous kinds are more than one remove ſeparated from them; they form the ſhade that completes the imperceptible gradations of nature.

Cartilaginous fiſh may be divided,

1. Into thoſe of the ſhark kind, comprehending the great white ſhark—baſking ſhark—blue ſhark—balance fiſh—horned fiſh—ſmooth horned fiſh—monk fiſh—dog fiſh

fiſh—cat fiſh—ſea fox—the zygaena—the tope—and the porbeagle. Theſe are all of the ſame nature, and differ more in ſize than in figure or conformation.

2. Flat fiſh, comprehending the torpedo—the ſkaite—the ſharp-noſed ray—the rough ray—the thornback—and the fire flare.

3. The ſlender ſnake-ſhaped kind: as the lamprey—the pride—and the pipe fiſh.

4. The ſturgeon and its variety—the iſinglaſs fiſh.

5. A variety of fiſh of different figures and natures, that do not rank under the former diviſions; as the ſun fiſh—the lump fiſh—the tetrodon—the ſea ſnail—the chimæra—and the fiſhing frog.

The third general diviſion of fiſhes is into that of the ſpinous or bony kind.

Of this claſs are already known above 400 ſpecies, of which the following are a part, viz. the eel, cod, ling, hake, tuſk, haddock, whiting, pollack, doree, holybut, ſalmon, trout, herring, mackarel, pike, perch, charr, mullet, carp, ſhad, tench, dace, roach, gudgeon, pilchard, ſmall ſprat, tunny, turbot, plaice, ſoal, flounder.

The fourth diviſion conſiſts of the ſhell kind, as the tortoiſe or turtle, lobſter, crab, prawn, cray-fiſh, ſhrimp, oyſter, muſcle, and cockle.

Migration of the Herrings.

There are ſome fiſhes, as the herring, cod-fiſh, haddock, whiting, mackarel, tunny, and pilchard, that may be called fiſh of paſſage, and bear a ſtrong analogy to birds of paſſage, both from their ſocial diſpoſition, and the immenſity of their numbers. Other fiſh live in our vicinity, and reſide on our coaſts all the year round; or keep in the depths

depths of the ocean, and are but ſeldom ſeen: but theſe, at ſtated ſeaſons, viſit the more ſouthern ſhores with regular certainty, generally returning the ſame week in the ſucceeding year, and often the ſame day.

The herrings are found, in the greateſt abundance, in the higheſt northern latitudes within the arctic circle. In thoſe inacceſſible ſeas, that are covered with ice during a great part of the year, the herring find a quiet and ſure retreat from all their numerous enemies: there neither man, nor their ſtill more deſtructive enemy, the ſun-fiſh, or the cachalot, the moſt voracious of the whale kind, dares to purſue them.

The great colony of herring ſets out from the icy ſea about the middle of winter, compoſed of ſuch numbers as to exceed the powers of imagination, but they no ſooner leave their retreats, than millions of enemies appear to thin their ſquadrons. The ſun-fiſh, and the cachalot devour hundreds at a time; the porpus, the grampus, the ſhark, cod-fiſh, haddocks, pollacks, and the whole numerous tribe of dog-fiſh find them an eaſy prey, and deſiſt from making war upon each other: but ſtill more, the innumbered flocks of ſea fowl, that chiefly inhabit near the pole, watch the outſet of their dangerous migrations, and ſpread extenſive ruin.

In this exigence, the defenceleſs emigrants find no other ſafety but by crowding cloſer together, like ſheep when frightened, and leaving to the outmoſt bands the danger of being firſt devoured. The main body begins at a certain latitude to ſeparate into two great diviſions, one of which moves to the weſt, and pours down along the coaſt of America, as far ſouth as Carolina, and are ſo numerous in the Cheſapeak bay, as to become a nuiſance to the ſhores.

ſhores. The other diviſion, takes an eaſtern direction, towards Europe, and falls in with the great iſland of Iceland about the beginning of March; upon their arrival on that coaſt, their phalanx, which has already ſuffered conſiderable diminutions, is nevertheleſs found to be of amazing extent, depth, * and cloſeneſs, occupying a ſurface equal to the dimenſions of Great Britain and Ireland, but ſubdivided into columns of five or ſix miles in length, and three or four in breadth, each line or column being led, according to the idea of fiſhermen, by herrings of more than ordinary ſize. The herrings ſwim near the ſurface, ſinking now and then for ten or fifteen minutes. The forerunners of thoſe who viſit the Britiſh kingdoms appear off Shetland in April or May, and the grand body begins to be perceived in June. Their approach is known to the fiſhers by a ſmall rippling of the water, the reflection of their brilliancy, and the number of ſolan geeſe or gannets, and other aerial perſecutors, who feaſt richly upon this offered bounty; and who, with the marine attendants, may be a concurrent cauſe of driving the ſhoals into bays and creeks. Here new enemies await theſe Heaven-directed ſtrangers. Whole fleets of Dutch, French, Flemiſh, Pruſſian, and Daniſh veſſels, with all the apparatus of netting, are in readineſs on a fixed day, to drag the ocean, thereby ſnatching from the ſhoals, not hundreds, but hundreds of thouſands, every night from June till September.

The Shetland iſlands, where the herrings meet with the firſt interruption in their progreſs ſouthwards, lie at the diſtance of 100 miles due north from the mainland of

* Some writers affirm, that the depth of the ſhoals upon the coaſt of Norway, reaches 200 fathoms from the ſurface of the ocean.

Scotland,

Scotland, and extend almoſt a degree in length. Though theſe iſlands break, and ſeparate the grand body of the herrings into two parts, theſe wanderers ſtill continue their courſe to the ſouthward. One diviſion proceeds along the eaſt ſide of Britain, pays its tribute to the Orkneys, the Murray Firth, the coaſts of Aberdeen, Angus and Fife; the great river Forth, the coaſt of Scarborough, and particularly the far projecting land at Yarmouth, the ancient and only mart of herrings in England, where they appear in September, and are found in conſiderable quantities till Chriſtmas. During this ſeaſon they ſend a conſiderable ſupply to the London market; and paſſing down the channel, they pay a ſlight viſit to the north coaſt of France, but ſo exhauſted and impoveriſhed, that they are very improper for commercial purpoſes, though they are both pickled and reddened by that induſtrious people, for exportation to their Weſt-India Colonies, as well as for home ſale.

The other brigade take their courſe from the Shetland iſlands, along the weſt ſide of Britain, and are obſerved to be larger and fatter than thoſe on the eaſt ſide. After paſſing the She land and the Orkney iſles, they crowd in amazing quantities into the lakes, bays, and narrow channels of the ſhires of Sutherland, Roſs and Inverneſs; which, with the Hebride iſles, eſpecially the Long Iſland, compoſe the greateſt ſtationary herring fiſhery in Britain, that upon the coaſt of Shetland excepted. Sometimes, as in 1784 and 1786, this ſhoal, in its ſouthern progreſs, edges cloſe upon the extenſive coaſt of Argyleſhire; fills every bay and creek; viſits, in ſmall detachments, the Firth of Clyde,* Lochfine, and other lakes within the

* It generally happens that wherever the herrings appear in any loch or bay, they return every ſucceeding ſeaſon for ſeven or more

the entrance of that river; the coaſt of Airſhire, and of Galloway, to the head of the Solway Firth. Having performed this friendly office to the weſtern ſhores of Scotland, the ſhoal proceeds towards the north of Ireland; where, meeting with a ſecond interruption, it is again divided into two brigades; one ſhoal paſſes down the Iriſh channel, viſits the Iſle of Man, and affords an occaſional ſupply to the eaſt coaſt of Ireland, and the weſt coaſt of England, as far as the Briſtol Channel. The other ſhoal ſkirts along the north-weſt coaſt of Ireland, ſometimes filling one loch ſometimes another, when it gradually diſappears, and is finally loſt in the immenſity of the Atlantic. So bountiful is providence to the inhabitants of the Britiſh Iſles, in one article of food only.

"Were we inclined, ſays a well known writer, to conſider this partial migration of the herring in a moral light, we might reflect with veneration and awe on the Mighty Power which originally impreſſed on this moſt uſeful body of his creatures the inſtinct that directs and points out the courſe, that bleſſes and enriches theſe iſlands, which cauſes them at certain and invariable times to quit the vaſt polar deeps, and offer themſelves to our expecting fleets. That benevolent Being has never, from the earlieſt records, been once known to withdraw his bleſſing from the whole, though he often thinks proper to deny it to particulars; yet this partial failure (for which we ſee no natural reaſon) ſhould fill us with the moſt exalted and grateful ſenſe of

more years ſucceſſively. Since the year 1759, there were few or no herrings in the Firth of Clyde, till laſt ſeaſon (1786), when whole ſhoals penetrated as high as Dunbarton, ſix miles above Greenock. The herrings were young and ſmall, and from this the inhabitants expect a plentiful fiſhery of full-grown herrings for ſeveral years to come.

his

his providence, for impreſſing ſo invariable and general an inſtinct on theſe fiſh towards a ſouthward migration, when the whole is to be benefited, and to withdraw it only when a minute part is to ſuffer.

"This impreſſion was given them, that they might remove for the ſake of depoſiting their ſpawn in warmer ſeas, that would mature and vivify it more aſſuredly than thoſe of the frigid zone. It is not from defect of food that they ſet themſelves in motion, for they come to us full of fat, and on their return are almoſt univerſally obſerved to be lean and miſerable. What their food is near the pole, we are not yet informed; but in our ſeas they feed much on the *oniſcus marinus*, a cruſtaceous inſect, and ſometimes on their own fry.

"They are in full roe to the end of June, and continue in perfection till the beginning of winter, when they begin to depoſit their ſpawn. Though we have no particular authority for it, yet as very few young herrings are found in our ſeas during the winter, it ſeems moſt certain that they muſt return to their parental haunts beneath the ice, to repair the vaſt deſtruction of their race during ſummer, by men, fowl, and fiſh."

Review of the Herring Fiſheries.

The whole coaſt of Scotland may be conſidered as one continued fiſhery, diſtinguiſhed, however, by various names:

1. The Shetland, or Northern Fiſhery.
2. That on the eaſt ſide of the kingdom, from the Pentland Firth to Berwick.
3. The Weſtern, or Hebride Fiſhery.

The

The Shetland, or Northern Fiſhery.

I ſhall confine myſelf to the firſt mentioned fiſheries; the Eaſt Country Herring Fiſhery is moſtly neglected, and the Weſtern Fiſhery has been deſcribed in the preceding journal. The Shetland Iſles are ſituated between 60 and 61 degrees of north latitude, about one degree north from the Orkney Iſles, 100 miles from the mainland of Scotland, and nearly the ſame diſtance from the coaſt of Norway. Of theſe iſlands forty-ſix are inhabited, beſides a number of leſſer ones, which afford a little graſs, and are called holms; others are mere rocks, the reſidence of voracious ſea fowls, which, like the human ſpecies, reſort hither after the herrings and other fiſhes that abound on theſe ſhores. The principal iſland of this diviſion is called *Mainland*; it extends about ſixty miles from north to ſouth, is in general very narrow, and much interſected with bays or openings, ſome of which penetrate almoſt from ſide to ſide. The ſurface of theſe iſlands is rock, or moſs, and in the valleys, a ſcanty portion of clay ſoil, which produces ſmall crops of barley and black oats, but very unequal to the wants of 20,000 inhabitants, who in bad ſeaſons experience all the diſtreſſes of poverty and famine. Nature, however, has been more liberal to their ſhores, not only in herrings, but in various ſpecies of white fiſh, the conſtant attendants of the herrings in their annual migrations from north to ſouth.

Lerwic, the principal town on theſe iſlands, is ſituated upon a narrow channel of the mainland, called Braſſa Sound. Here the Dutch and other foreigners reſort to the fiſheries at the appointed ſeaſons, when Lerwic has all the appearance of a continued market or fair.

We have, in the *View of the Britiſh Empire*, traced the origin of the Dutch fiſheries on the ſhores of Scotland, which have proved ſo beneficial to the former, that the relation thereof would be conſidered as fabulous or chimerical, were it not fully authenticated by the joint teſtimony of Dutch and Britiſh writers, as well as by the ſtatutes and archives of both countries.

Sir Walter Raleigh relates, That, in 1603, the Dutch ſold to different nations as many herrings as amounted to 1,759,000l. That, in 1615, they at once ſent out 2000 buſſes, and employed in them 37,000 fiſhermen. That, in 1618, they ſent out 3000 buſſes, with 50,000 men, to take the herrings, and 9000 more veſſels to tranſport and ſell the fiſh; which, by ſea and land, employed 150,000 men, beſides thoſe firſt mentioned. All this wealth ſays he, was gotten on our coaſts; while our attention was taken up in a diſtant whale fiſhery.

Sir William Monſon, after taking a review of the great commerce carried on by the Dutch, in various parts of the world, which he aſcribes chiefly to their fiſheries, proceeds thus; "There needs no repetition of any former relation; for truth has ſpoke it, which is ſo glorious of herſelf, that it needs no ſhade to give it better gloſs: in what follows I will demonſtrate by the particular proceedings of the Hollanders, in their pinks and buſſes, what certain gain they yearly raiſe out of them; and when experience, the mother of knowledge, ſhall make it apparent to you, I hope you will remember what you are, and how eaſy you may make yourſelf and country by it.

"From the Texel in Holland to Braſſa Sound in Shetland, an iſland belonging to his majeſty's dominions in Scotland, is two hundred thirty and odd leagues, whither there reſort

ſort the 22d or 23d of June well nigh 2000 fiſhing veſſels. The 24th they put to ſea, being prohibited till that day, and a penalty upon the breaker thereof, holding the herrings till then unſeaſonable to ſalt, for their fatneſs.

" Every one of theſe veſſels that day directs its courſe to find out the ſhoal of herrings, like a hound that purſues the head of a dear in hunting: when they have laden their buſſes, which is ſooner or later, as they find the ſhoal of herrings, they preſently return home for Holland, and leave their herrings aſhore to be there repacked, and from thence immediately to be ſent into the Sound (the Baltic), where they receive them for a great dainty.

" The buſſes having thus diſburthened themſelves in Holland, once more furniſhed with victuals, caſks and ſalt, they repair to ſea to look out the ſhoal they had formerly left; and then finding them, and filling them once again, they do as they did before, return to Holland.

" Nor thus ceaſing, the third time they repair to the ſhoal, as aforeſaid; and in their three fiſhings, computing with the leaſt, they take to the number of 100 laſts of herrings, which being valued at ten pounds the laſt, which is not ſeventeen ſhillings a barrel, will amount to 1000 pounds ſterling each ſhip.

" Many times this fiſhing fleet is attended with certain veſſels called yawgers, which carry ſalt, caſk, and victuals, to truck with the buſſes for their herrings, and carry them directly into the Sound, without returning into Holland; for it is a matter of great conſequence and gain, to bring the firſt herrings into the Sound; for there they are eſteemed as partridges with us, at their firſt coming: but now of late years the Hollanders are prohibited by the

ſtate, carrying or trucking away their herrings, till they firſt land them in Holland; which will prove the more commodious to us."

Sir William proceeds next to ſtate the expence of a buſs of ſeventy tons from the ſtocks, with the price of her nets, tackling, ſalt, victuals, caſks, men's wages, and other particulars; likewiſe, of a pink of forty tons, for the white fiſhery. He alſo draws a compariſon between the Weſt-India trade and the Britiſh fiſheries, wherein he uſes various arguments to prove, that the latter branch is, upon the whole, more important than the former, and merits the firſt attention of the Britiſh government. "You will wonder, "ſays he," being born a ſubject of England, and caſting your eyes upon the gainful ſoil of the land, that you never conceived what the ſea afforded: I confeſs it were impoſſible for you to live in that ignorance, if it did not appear by the enſuing diſcourſe, how you, your country, and eſpecially the princes of theſe realms, have been abuſed, and the profit thereof concealed.

"What better light can we have for this work, than from our neareſt and intimateſt friends the Hollanders? who, by their long travels, their exceſſive pains, their ingenious inventions, their incomparable induſtry, and provident care, have exceeded all other nations in their adventures and commerce, and made all the world familiar with them in traffic; whereby we may juſtly attribute to them, what the Chineſe aſſumed to themſelves, that only they have two eyes, the Europeans but one, and all the reſt of the world none. How can this better appear than out of their labours and our fiſh only?

"They have increaſed the number of veſſels; they have ſupplied the world with food, which otherwiſe

would have found a ſcarcity; they have advanced trade ſo abundantly, that the wealth of ſubjects and the cuſtoms of princes have found the benefit of it; and laſtly, they have thus provided for themſelves, and all people of all ſorts, though they be impotent and lame, that want employment, or that are forced to ſeek work for their maintenance.

" And becauſe their quantity of fiſh is not to be vended in their own provinces, but to be diſperſed in all parts of Europe, I will give you an account of it, as it hath been carefully obſerved and taken out of the cuſtom-houſe books beyond the ſeas.*

" In four provinces within the Sound, viz, Koningſberg, Melvin, Stetin, and Dantzick, there are vended in a year betwixt 30 and 40,000 laſts of herrings; which will amount to more than 620,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Leiſland, Ric, Regel, Narpe, and other towns within the Sound, take off above 10,000 laſts, worth 160,000 pounds.

" The Hollanders ſend into Ruſſia above 1500 laſts of herrings, ſold at 27,000 pounds; *and we not above thirty or forty laſts.*

" Stode, Hamburgh, Bremen, Embden, and upon the river Elbe, in fiſh and herrings above 6000 laſts, ſold at 100,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" Cleveland, Juliers, up the River Rhine, Frankfort, Cologne, and over all Germany, in fiſh and herrings

* This account is equally curious and intereſting, as it points out the markets then exiſting, and which ſtill remain, though in a leſs degree.

near 22000 laſts, amounting to 440,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" Gelderland, Artois, Hainhaut, Brabant, Flanders, and the archduke's countries, 8 or 9000 laſts, ſold at eighteen pounds the laſt, amounts to 160,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" At Roan in Normandy, 500 laſts of herrings, ſold at 10,000 pounds; *and we not* 100 *laſts*; there commonly ſold for twenty, and ſometimes thirty pounds a laſt.

" Beſides what they ſpend in Holland, and ſell there to other nations, the value of many hundred thouſand pounds.

" Now having perfected the valuation of the Hollanders fiſh, caught in our ſeas, and vended into foreign countries, our ſhame will manifeſtly appear, that of ſo many thouſand laſts of fiſh, and ſo many hundred thouſand pounds in money made by them; we cannot give account of 150 laſts taken and vended by us.

" The Hollanders are no leſs to be commended, in the benefit they make of the return of their fiſh; for what commodity ſoever any country yields in lieu thereof, they tranſport in their own veſſels into Holland, where they have a continual ſtaple of all commodities brought out of the ſouth, from thence ſent into the north and the eaſt countries: the like they do from out of the north into the ſouth, their ſhips continually going and bringing ineſtimable profit; like a weaver's ſhuttle, he caſts from one hand to another, ever in action, till his gain appear in the cloth he makes.

" But the greateſt navigation of theirs, and of moſt importance to their ſtate, for maintenance of ſhips of bur-

then

then and ſtrength, is into the Streights, from the port of Marſeilles, along the coaſt as far as Venice. During theſe eighteen years laſt paſt they have ſo increaſed their navigation, whereas before they had not above two ſhips to five of ours within the Streights, within the ſaid eighteen years they are able to ſhew ten of theirs to one of ours, and merely by the trade of fiſh; for true it is, that there is no commodity in the world of ſo great bulk and ſmall value, or that can ſet ſo many ſhips of burthen to work.

" The principal work I am at, is how to undertake the Hollanders with our own weapons, and how to equal them with pinks, buſſes, and other veſſels, till we be made partners with them in the fiſhing: not out of envy to their labours; or to revenge diſcourteſies: only we will ſeek to do what nature dictates, viz. *to enjoy and make uſe of our own*, by the countenance of our bleſſed king, that in juſtice gives all people their right and due.

" I preſent you not with toys to pleaſe children, or with ſhadows of untruths; for I know truth to be ſo noble of itſelf, that it makes him honourable that pronounces it; and that an honeſt man will rather bear witneſs againſt friendſhip than truth. I have made it appear with what facility the Hollanders go through with the *golden mine* of theirs, which they ſo term in their proclamation extant: I make proof that their buſſes and pinks are built to take fiſh; that they fill themſelves thrice a ſummer with fiſh; that this fiſh is vended and eſteemed as a precious food in all the parts of Europe; and that the return thereof gives them means to live and breathe; without which they could not.

" It is manifeſt that fiſh has brought them to a great ſtrength both by land and ſea, and fame withal, in maintaining their inteſtine war againſt ſo great and potent an enemy as the king of Spain.

" And if all theſe benefits appear in them, and nothing but ſhame and ſcorn in us, let us enter into the cauſe thereof, and ſeek to amend it; let us labour to follow their example, which is better than a ſchoolmaſter to teach us. Nothing is our bane but idleneſs, which ingenders ignorance, and ignorance error; all which we may be taxed with, for to a ſlothful man nothing is ſo eaſy, but it will prove difficult, if it be not done willingly.

" There are but two things required in this work; that is to ſay, a will to undertake it, and money to go through with it, which being found we will place charity to begin at home with ourſelves, before we yield it to our neighbours; and then this buſineſs will appear to be effected with more benefit, more ſtrength, more renown, more happineſs, and leſs expence than Hollanders have or can go through withal. Time is the moſt precious experience; and you ſhall find that time will cure our careleſſneſs paſt, that reaſon could not hitherto do.

" The inſtruments by which the Hollanders work, are their veſſels of ſeveral kinds, as I have declared, not produced out of their own country; for it yields nothing to further it, but their own pains and labour.

" Their wood, timber, and planks to build ſhips, they fetch out of divers other places; and yet are theſe no more available to undertake their fiſhing and navigation, than weapons are without hands to fight. Their iron, hemp, cordage, barrel-boards, bread and malt, they are beholding for to ſeveral countries; and if at any time out of diſpleaſure

ſure they be prohibited the tranſportation, they are to ſeek a new occupation, for the ſtate fails.

" Comparing their caſualties and inconveniencies with ours, you ſhall diſcern the advantage and benefit God has given us, in reſpect of them; for all the materials formerly repeated, that go to their ſhipping, England yields moſt of them, or in little time the earth will be made to produce them in abundance; ſo that we ſhall not need to ſtand upon the courteſy of our neighbours, or to venture the hazard of the ſea in fetching them.

" Whereas all manner of people, of what degree ſoever in Holland, have commonly a ſhare, according to their abilities, in this fiſhing; and that the only exception amongſt ourſelves, is the want of money to undertake it, you ſhall underſtand how God and nature have provided for us; for I will apparently anſwer the objection of money, and caſt it upon the ſluggiſhneſs and ill-diſpoſition of our people, who if they will take away the cauſe of this imputation, they ſhall take away the offence due to it, and by which we are ſcandalized.

" In the objection of lack of money to ſet on foot this work, it would ſeem ridiculous to ſtrangers that behold the wealth and glory of this kingdom, with the ſumptuous buildings, the coſtly inſide of houſes, the maſs of plate to deck them, the daily hoſpitality and number of ſervants to honour their maſters, and their charitable alms diſtributed out of their ſuperfluities. And to deſcend to people in particular, if they behold the bravery of apparel vainly ſpent, the rich and curious jewels to adorn their bodies, and the needleſs expences yearly waſted, they would conclude, that it was not want, but will, that muſt be our impediment."

After enumerating the various natural productions raiſed in England favourable to the fiſheries, Sir William enforces his favourite theme, by ſundry nautical remarks, all of them proving beyond a doubt, the ſuperior advantages which the natives enjoy from their local ſituation; and the riches yet in ſtore from this inexhauſtible ſource, to all Britiſh ſubjects who ſhall ſearch after them.

" All the ſhoals (ſays an anonymous author) appointed by the immutable decree to poſſeſs the firths and bays on the eaſt ſhore of Britain, come into the German ſea by the eaſt ſide of Shetland, and that not many leagues from ſhore; as thoſe appointed to ſpawn on our north and weſt bays of Scotland, which are much the greater numbers, ſwim by the weſt ſide of it.

" But theſe natives of our Scots bays in the German ſea ſwim cloſe by the ſhore, which is the reaſon they cannot eſcape, and are ſo broken that they never come in confirmed ſhoals, or great bodies, to their ſpawning beds, any year the Dutch can conſtantly keep at ſea the months of June and July. For how is it poſſible to eſcape 5 or 600 miles of nets that every night ſtrains every foot length of water five or ſix leagues from the ſhore?

" Every Dutch buſs has a large mile length of very deep nets dragging after him every night from ſun-ſet to ſun-riſing. There are about 6 or 700 of them come now generally out, the conſtant ſtation of all theſe is the eaſt coaſt of Shetland; they never go further than four or five leagues from the ſhore, yea I have ſeen them fiſh within half a league. The nearer the ſhore, ſo that there is water deep enough to keep their nets from the bottom, they fiſh the better: for the herrings that make their

their courſe to the eaſt coaſt, ſwim cloſe by the ſhore; for no compaſs more juſtly directs the ſhip to her port, than the leaders of that innumerable army of herring guide their body to the particular bay or firth natural to them, and they directly make for.

"They many years make two or three loaded returns; and this laſt ſummer (1728), though our few buſſes came home almoſt empty, I am credibly informed, the Dutch, after ours came away, carried two or three freights home, though it is certain the ſtormineſs of the ſummer hindered their fiſhing the true right herring on the coaſt of Shetland; but the latter end of the year, by their good patience, they ſtaid out the bad weather, and though they did not fiſh the good fat herring they commonly uſed, in the proper ſtation for ſuch herring, they followed the herring, picked up their loadings of ſpent big-bellied ones on the coaſt of Caithneſs, Buchan, Banff, and all the Murray Firth. Any was better than going home empty handed.

"It was happy for our ſhallow waters, or firth-fiſhing, the ſummer was ſo bad, that the Dutch could not fiſh on the eaſt coaſt of Shetland, to take, break, or divert the ſhoals, that by the command, and unalterable decree of the firſt omnipotent *fiat*, are appointed conſtantly to keep that very route to come to our ſhores and propagate their kinds. For ſince the French, in queen Ann's reign, burnt 5 or 600 Dutch buſſes in one day, we had not ſo many herrings in our firths and bays on the eaſt coaſt of Scotland, as we had this year."

Mr. Groſett, a Gentleman of Dutch deſcent, hath the following remarks, in a pamphlet on the growth of the Dutch States, and the cauſes thereof.

"If we pay the leaſt attention to the original ſtate of the

the Dutch fiſheries, or by what means they raiſed themſelves to their preſent ſtate of opulence, we ſhall find that they were abſolutely nothing more than mere fiſhermen, who had collected themſelves into a ſmall body, from different quarters, and lived in huts, erected upon a ſpot then called Damſluys, which ſtill retains its name; but to the aſtoniſhment of travelers, when inquired for, will be found in the centre of the famous city of Amſterdam; which, though originally nothing more than a poor fiſhing hamlet, now pretends to diſpute conſequence with the firſt trading city of the known world—London.

" Early in the twelfth century, their progreſs was ſo great, that the Harlemers and Waterlanders became jealous of them, embraced a frivolous opportunity of joining John VI. Count Florent, attacked the poor fiſhermen, and totally deſtroyed their habitations to the very foundations. In 1300, they found themſelves re-aſſembled in a conſiderable body, on the old ſpot; and in 1342 they obtained a renewal of their privileges from the then reigning Count Florent, William IV. In 1346, the lordſhip of that domain devolved to the Earls of Holland by marriage, ſince which they have increaſed by degrees to their preſent pitch of undoubted opulence.

" The great increaſe of people, in proceſs of time, obliged them to ſeek new fields of employment. Of courſe, none could be more eligible than the fiſhery which they diſcovered on the coaſts of Ireland, and weſtern iſlands of Scotland. This branch* they ſtuck cloſely to, till the Engliſh

* Mr. Groſſett is under a miſtake in making the weſt ſide of Britain the ſeat of the Dutch herring fiſheries. A few families were permitted to ſettle, as before obſerved, on the Lewis Iſland, and were afterwards driven away. The great Dutch fiſhery was formerly,

Engliſh diſcovered the Whale Fiſhery, in Queen Elizabeth's time. From 1598 the Engliſh carried on that branch unrivalled till 1612, when the Hollanders ſent their firſt ſhip to Spitſbergen, or Greenland, in hopes of reaping a part of the benefit of that moſt beneficial diſcovery. The Engliſh claimed the property as the firſt diſcoverers, and would not allow the Dutch to fiſh thereabout, or have any ſhare in ſo profitable a trade. The conteſt ran high, and ſundry bickerings enſued between the ſhips of both nations. At length the ſtates general, unwilling to give offence to king James, ſent a deputation to England, to treat upon the ſubject of the freedom of the fiſhery; the king avoided giving any abſolute deciſion in point of right; yet at the ſame time his majeſty not encouraging the Engliſh merchants to diſturb the Dutch, it remained a matter undetermined, and both parties went on fiſhing as before. Soon after, the Danes, Hamburghers, and French, began, and have ever ſince continued to fiſh in thoſe ſeas.

"The Dutch have found ſo eſſential an intereſt in the continuance of fiſheries, that they do give every poſſible encouragement to the proſecution of them. By inattention, we loſt the ſway in the Greenland fiſheries, though the firſt diſcoverers: and, by negligence, we have ſuffered

formerly, as it is at preſent, carried on upon the eaſt ſide of the Shetland Iſlands, from whence the buſſes ſometimes follow the herrings down the channel, till want of ſtores or other circumſtances oblige them to return to the grand rendezvous off *Braſſa* Sound, in Shetland.

If the north-weſt coaſts of Scotland be unfavourable for a Dutch fiſhery, that of Ireland is much more ſo. Voyages from Holland by the Pentland Firth to the coaſt of Donnegal would require, upon an average, three or four weeks, beſides unavoidable dangers; while thoſe to the Shetland Iſles may be performed, almoſt with any wind, in ten or twelve days at fartheſt.

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the Dutch to raiſe immenſe fortunes from our ſhores, by the herring fiſheries. Their uninterrupted poſſeſſion of that lucrative branch of traffic, was what originally gave birth to their now general commercial intercourſe, and conſequence, with every trafficking quarter of the world. OUR SEAS WERE THEIR ORIGINAL MINES, as acknowledged by the Dutch, and may be ſeen on the face of one of their proclamations for the encouragement of the fiſheries, bearing date, anno 1624; they there call it their GOLDEN MINE, from which they have long derived a ſtaple commodity, to barter againſt articles which other nations had to ſpare."

Sir Lucius Obrien juſtly obſerves, "that ſince the firſt eſtabliſhment of the herring fiſhery, the Dutch have enjoyed the principal part of it; to this they ſtand indebted for their freedom, having thereby been enabled to contend ſucceſsfully with the richeſt monarch and moſt powerful nation in Europe, and not only to defend themſelves, but during the courſe of a long war to beautify their country, fortify their cities, eſtabliſh a powerful marine, and fix colonies in the moſt diſtant parts of the world; and in the midſt of all theſe expences to increaſe daily in wealth and ſplendour; and therefore it is not without reaſon that, by order of the ſtates, it is inſerted in the daily prayers offered up in their churches, that God would be graciouſly pleaſed to bleſs their land, and to preſerve to them the great and ſmall fiſheries.

"The French too have benefited themſelves exceedingly by this trade, and yet theſe nations are obliged to ſeek their fiſh on our coaſts, by a long and expenſive navigation in large ſhips, while providence bringeth them even to our doors; it might be expected we ſhould be able to take them at a much leſs expence by boats, and cure them more perfectly on our ſhores; and yet his majeſty's

jeſty's ſubjects have not yet been able to eſtabliſh this fiſhery effectually, probably from the poverty and neglect of the northweſt parts of Scotland and Ireland, to both of which countries every year comes as great an abundance of herrings, as to any part of the world, while the wretched inhabitants have neither a ſtock of ſalt ſufficient to ſave even what they can catch, nor a ſufficient number of barrels to pack them in."

Copy of a letter from GEORGE DEMPSTER, *Eſq. to Mr.* JOHN RICHARDSON, *Fiſh Curer in Perth, October* 4, 1785.

" Dear Sir,

" The moment I ſent you the hint about preſerving fiſh in ſnow and ice, I applied to Mr. Dalrymple (Alexander) for further particulars: I found he ſpoke by report. But the perſon is in England, and he has written to him. But it would ſeem to me, that with the ſpirit of inquiry and experiment of this age and this country, we ſhall ſpeedily exceed the Chineſe as much in this as in other arts.

" We know that heat and cold communicate themſelves to adjoining bodies, till they are all at an equal degree of heat or cold, but proportioned to their reſpective maſſes.

" Thus if a body weighing 10lb. weight, has 80 degrees of heat, and another body of the ſame weight only 30 degrees, and if they are put in contact, both bodies will ſoon be 55 degrees hot. But if the cold body be double weight, the heat of both will be proportionably leſs, and ſo forth; on this principle I ſhould think it might be adviſable to depoſite ſalmon, when newly caught, in an ice-

ice-houſe, and cover them over with ice. The ſalmon would ſoon be frozen, and in that ſtate they might be preſerved in a tight dry chamber, in the hold of a veſſel, with a very ſmall proportion of ice or ſnow, perhaps not more than their own weight. And when there is any anxiety about diſpatching the ſalmon ſoon, they might be ſplit, or cut in ſmall ſlices, before being put to freeze. If they are diſpatched in froſty weather, the object in that caſe would be, to let the air get free acceſs to them in the veſſel, which would anſwer all the purpoſes of ice or ſnow.

"There is ſo much reaſon in this way of conveying a delicate article like fiſh to a diſtant market, that it will be a pity to be diſcouraged, by a firſt and ſecond unſucceſsful attempt. We know in all the frozen regions, poultry, and meat of every kind, is killed ſoon after the froſt ſets in, and uſed in very good condition occaſionally through the winter. It would perhaps be no bad ſpeculation to ſend poultry, eggs, and above all game in the ſame way. It is the cuſtom here for fiſhmongers to make preſents to their cuſtomers, of hares, and woodcocks. They would be glad to find ſuch articles at Billingſgate. The apartments in the veſſels might perhaps be lined with flag ſtones, being more retentive of cold than wood. Might not fruit, oranges, lemons; and apples, be brought back among the ſnow, or ice from London, to good account, in the winter time? In ſhort, this ſcheme ſeems to bid fair to open a new and very extenſive ſpecies of coaſting trade, not only with London, but between the whole northern and ſouthern parts of the iſland."

This experiment of preſerving ſalmon by means of ice, has proved very ſucceſsful. The fiſh are put into an ice-houſe

houſe as ſoon as they are caught; from thence they are ſhipped for London in ſtrong wooden boxes, containing ſix or ſeven ſalmon each. A board of ice is placed at the bottom, and on each ſide of the box; this being done, the ſalmon are placed upon one another, with a board of ice between them, and another at the top of the box. Being thus placed alternately between thick boards of ice, they will eat as freſh and ſweet as when they were brought out of the water.

In my laſt journey from the North Highlands, I was informed at Banff, that the ſalmon are there bled at the gills as ſoon as they are hauled into the boats, which method is conſidered as an improvement in curing.

Copy of a Letter on improving Moorlands, from GEORGE DEMPSTER, *Eſq. at* BUXTON, *September* 1784, *to* JAMES GUTHRIE, *Eſq.*

"The peak of Derby was till very lately one continued heath, and is ſituated in ſo high a region, that the few oats they ſow here, are at preſent, the 16th of September, only beginning to ripen, and will not be fit for cutting down theſe eight or ten days. From coal being plenty, there has been little of the turf carried away for fuel, ſo that by the gradual decay of the heath there is formed a ſort of turfy ſoil under the heath, in ſome places three or four feet deep, in general a foot or two, which has exactly the appearance of our peat in Scotland, and would, I have no doubt, be equally combuſtible. At preſent the appearance of the peak is very much altered. Not only the vales ſeem very well cultivated, but the hills are ſo alſo. Little heath is to be ſeen; the ground is encloſed with limeſtone walls, like the Galaway ſnap dykes, and theſe incloſures carry a very rich nouriſhing graſs.

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" It muſt be of importance to the farmers, and ſtill more to the proprietors of eſtates in Scotland, where there is ſo much heath, to know the means by which this change on the face of the peak of Derby has been effected in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time. After a very minute inquiry, I find the following method has been generally purſued: The ground is firſt ſufficiently encloſed with a ſtone wall; ſtone abounding for the purpoſe, every where. The encloſures are of very various ſizes, from two to one hundred acres. The heath is then covered with burnt lime, at the rate of one hundred horſe-loads the acre. A horſe-load conſiſts of ten pecks, or two buſhels and a half. The lime is laid down in little heaps, and when fallen by the weather, is ſpread as equally as poſſible over the field. The effects are perceived even in the firſt year, by its beginning to deſtroy the heath, and bring up a ſweet natural graſs. Every year the ſame effects increaſe, till in the courſe of five or ſix years the heath is entirely extirpated, and the field covered with good graſs. I have inſpected many fields, in all their different ſtates after liming, and I have perceived the heath ſtill remaining on the ground, but killed, as effectually as if it had been pulled up by the roots. The price of the lime is about four-pence half-penny the horſe-load. There are ſome farmers who put double the quantity above mentioned to the acre, and, as I am informed, with great advantage to the ground, which is thereby ſooner freed from the heath, and clothed with a richer and cloſer pile of graſs. The worſt fields, worth very little in their original ſtate, are let at various prices, from thirty to ten ſhillings an acre of yearly rent. It has been uſual alſo for ſome farmers to pare and burn the heath, ſow turnips, then barley, and hayſeeds, and afterwards to lime their fields. But this ſyſtem is found not only much more expenſive, but leſs profitable. The ſurface of the heath being broken by the plough, the lime

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is ſuppoſed to ſink down too faſt into the ground. I could not aſcertain the exact weight of a buſhel of lime ſhells. But an ordinary horſe of the country carries two buſhels and a half of it, a one-horſe cart, ten buſhels, and a team of four or five horſes, about twenty five or thirty buſhels. Mr. Robert Longdon, of Buxton, who has improved a farm for himſelf of 300 acres in the Peak, informs me he has improved ſome land in the above deſcribed manner, but more frequently burns the heath, puts on about 120 load of lime, then harrows the land with a very heavy harrow, and ſows it with about 24 buſhels of hay-ſeeds, by which he finds it comes more quickly into graſs, than by leaving the lime to conſume the heath gradually. He has alſo ploughed up the heath, and limed the land, and ſown hayſeeds without ſowing corn. I aſked him how he would proceed with heathy land, where the clay and till was very near the ſurface, which is the caſe with many of the Scotch moors: In that caſe he ſaid he would burn the heath, if it were long enough, and put on lime, and ſow hayſeeds. If not long enough, he would lime, harrow, and ſow graſs (hayſeeds), but would not plough.

Copies of Two Letters on the above ſubject, from JAMES GUTHRIE, *Eſq. at* BUXTON, *May* 30, *and June* 3, 1785, *to* GEORGE DEMPSTER, *Eſq.*

As to the improvement of muirland in this neighbourhood, the accounts you ſent me of it laſt year, gave me a great deſire to ſee it, but the weather ever ſince we came here has been ſo extremely cold and wet, I have never yet been able ſufficiently to ſatisfy my curioſity, nor to explore any of the wonders of the Peak.

I have however rode over the improvements made by Mr. Longden, for the Duke of Devonſhire, and ſaw the aſtoniſhing effects of lime, in deſtroying heath, and improving graſs. They are ſtriking in every ſtage, from the firſt year it is laid on, when the ground is worth nothing, to the ſeventh or eighth, when the ſame ground lets at from ten to twenty ſhillings per acre, for paſture. However ardently I may wiſh to ſee the ſame practice adopted in our own country, I fear we have few ſituations where it can be tried with the ſame proſpect of ſucceſs.

Our climate indeed needs be no bar to the experiment, for I know no part of Scotland colder, bleaker, nor later than the peak of Derby. At this moment the plain trees here are not farther advanced than they were in Angus a month ago, and the aſhes are ſtill as bare as at Chriſtmas. Wherever the metamorphoſis of heath into paſture, has taken place without plowing, as far as I have ſeen, they have lime on the ſpot, without almoſt any expence in quarrying. They build a kiln in the moſt centrical place of the field, at the expence of 40 or 50 ſhillings, and have coal to bring to it only a few miles off, at 2 ſhillings the waggon load of three horſes at the coal-pit. With all theſe advantages I am informed it coſts about 5 pounds per acre to lime in the quantity neceſſary to improve graſs, and to deſtroy heath it coſts a great deal more.

If I am right in my calculations, the Duke of Devonſhire has laid on 150 bolls of lime-ſhells, our barley meaſure, per acre, on heath without any plowing or levelling. As the experimental huſbandry of a Duke, may not be deciſive in the opinion of many, I have looked at the operations

operations of ſome of his neighbours, who have followed his example. They think that quantity neceſſary to vanquiſh heath, but where the ground will admit of paring, burning, and ſhallow plowing, juſt ſufficient to level and ſmooth the ſurface, a quantity equal to our hundred bolls of lime-ſhells will do; and that quantity is uſed by proprietors and farmers, not only upon new ground, but to improve old graſs lands. Corn never ripens here, and is therefore almoſt entirely excluded their ſyſtem of huſbandry.

As I ſaid before, I fear we cannot carry this practice into Scotland, with the ſame proſpect of ſucceſs, becauſe I know no place where we have lime ſo cheap, and it does not appear to anſwer, when laid on in ſmall quantities. It is likewiſe a matter of doubt with me, if our muirs, which in general have a wet cold mortar or till at bottom, are of ſo improvable a nature as in Derbyſhire, where the bottom is lime-ſtone; but wherever our muirs are dry, and in the neighbourhood of cheap lime or ſhell marle, the experiment ought to be tried.

In return for the inſtruction they furniſh us with in point of liming muir grounds, I think we can give them a leſſon of planting them, which is an unpardonable neglect in this cold, bleak country, where timber would thrive ſo well, and where they are in ſuch want of ſhelter. Notwithſtanding Dr. Johnſon's ſneer at us for our ſtone hedges; I am ſure there are more dykes in Derbyſhire than in all Scotland.*

* This gentleman, it would appear, has not ſeen one half of Scotland.

My Dear Sir,

This is the third letter I have the honour to addreſs to you ſince I came to this place, though by your favour of the 31ſt of May, which I received this day, I find none of them had then reached you. Indeed the poſt ſeems ſo irregular and uncertain, that Lord Dalhouſie and I have been threatening to drop all correſpondence till we leave Buxton. The letters we receive from Scotland are commonly nine or ten days old, and come here by the way of London. Our letters from thence are always three or four days old, and whether any letters wrote by us have ever left Buxton we know not, for we have never yet received an anſwer to any of them.

We have ſtill extreme cold weather, and almoſt inceſſant rain, in ſpite of which I have been out ſurveying the Duke of Devonſhire's muirland improvements, but have not yet been ſo fortunate, as to meet with his improver Mr. Longden, though I have called upon him twice. I imagine he is ſo much haraſſed with viſits of that kind, that he does not chooſe to be at home. Our landlord Mr. Wheeldon, who is a farmer too, rode over all the limed lands with me, but could give but a very imperfect account of many things Longden could explain to me. I would be glad to ſee his method tried in Scotland, and ſhould have little doubts of its ſucceſs, but for the great difference in the quality of the muirlands of the Peak, and any part of Scotland that I am acquainted with. A field of heath I ſaw to day newly limed, I thought at firſt view looked by all the world like Lorns hill. The ſurface quite black, and ſomething like coarſe red clay appeared below it in the bottoms of the cart and water tracks;

tracks; but when I alighted to examine it, I found it a mixture of clay and ſand, quite free of ſtones, and of a loamy quality. Though it has rained every day ſince we came here, there was not a pool of water to be ſeen; had it been of the nature of our cold mortar or till, it would have been all a puddle.

As genteel Families in the Highlands are much diſtreſſed from the want of yeaſt, the following receipt, communicated by Mr. DEMPSTER, *will be found uſeful.*

Receipt to make perpetual *Yeaſt*, or Barm: Take 1lb. of flour (fine), make it the thickneſs of gruel with boiling water, add to it half a pound of raw ſugar, mix them well together, put three ſpoonfulls of well purified yeaſt into a large veſſel, upon which pour the above ingredients; they will ſoon ferment violently. Collect the yeaſt off the top, and put it into a brown ſmall-neck'd pot, cover it up from the air, keep it in a dry and warmiſh place; when uſed in part, replace with flour made into a thin paſte, and ſugar in the former proportions. I ſaw this uſed after it had been five months made. No yeaſt is neceſſary except the firſt time.

Memorandums concerning the Village of LAWRENCE KIRK.*

This village till the year 1768, was only what is called a Kirktown, and conſiſted of ſix or ſeven houſes.

* Theſe important obſervations, written by Lord Gardenſtone, were communicated by George Dempſter, Eſq. They ſeem to have been drawn up chiefly for the peruſal of the Duke of Athol, and a number of gentlemen, who are at preſent raiſing a conſiderable town on

Its ſituation is in ſome reſpects advantageous, and it lies under ſome diſadvantages. It is placed in the heart of a populous, induſtrious country, in which the manufactory of low-priced linen has been eſtabliſhed. It is alſo a ſtage on the great road from Perth to Aberdeen. There are adjoining fields very fit for bleaching, and well ſupplied with ſtreams and ſprings of water. Its chief diſadvantage is the difficulty and charge of being ſupplied with fuel, having no turf, and long land carriage of coal eleven miles on a road not yet very good from our ſea-port.—I was convinced that the benefits of ſituation joined to a ſpirit of induſtry duly encouraged, were ſufficient to ſurmount the difficulties, and in the ſaid year 1768, I embarked in the project of a village;—undiſmayed by various loſſes and diſappointments, I have ſteadily perſevered, and can now with great pleaſure ſay, that this ſcheme has ſucceeded on the whole beyond my moſt ſanguine hopes.

Having planned the village ſtreet through a tract of very barren ground, I publiſhed advertiſements through the country, that induſtrious ſettlers would meet with encouragement. Very moderate promiſes to induſtry, ſuch as five guineas for the firſt four looms in any Weaver's houſe, were propoſed.

Lots of lands in the line of the village, for houſes and gardens were to be granted at the rate of ſixpence per fall, i. e. four pounds per acre; the ſettlers were not to

on the Duke's eſtate near Perth, called *Stanley*. It is to be wiſhed that the liberal ſpirit, perceivable throughout the whole detail, and the good effects thereof, may open the eyes of many proprietors of lands whoſe narrow conduct has impeded the growth of towns and manufactures which they have been attempting to raiſe upon their eſtates.

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have feus but leaſes for one hundred years of their grounds for houſes and gardens. They might alſo have ſmall farms from two to five acres, at very moderate rent, with gradual riſes for an endurance of nineteen years with a ſurvivancy to huſband and wife. Theſe ſmall farms were generally let at firſt for ten ſhillings per acre, with riſes up to fifteen, eighteen, and twenty ſhillings during the leaſe; and according to the quality of the land.—The ſettlers were to build their own houſes, and keep them in repairs.

In a few years I varied this plan, finding that it was not thought ſufficiently encouraging to ſettlers in the village.—My view from the beginning was to make the people who ſettled in the village eaſy and independent, not doubting that ſuch people would make my adjoining land valuable—I could not carry my land to the gates of a thriving town, but I could anſwer the ſame purpoſe by erecting and eſtabliſhing a thriving town in the heart of my land.—By this time I felt an agreeable zeal in the project, and contracted a fond affection to the people as they became inhabitants of my village.—*I have tried in ſome meaſure, a variety of the pleaſures which mankind purſue; but never reliſhed any ſo much as the pleaſure ariſing from the progreſs of my village.*

Upon my original plan as above explained, ſeveral good and induſtrious tradeſmen, particularly weavers, made ſettlements in my village, with the long leaſes for their houſes and gardens, and with ſmall farms on the moderate leaſe. Theſe people appeared on a trial for ſome years to be contented and thriving.—They had been ſubtenants in the country, and were ſenſible that they had changed to a better condition.—Yet one of them, a ſagacious fellow, and a great favourite, informed me that though he and the other ſettlers were well ſatisfied, an opinion prevailed in the country, that my rents for houſes and garden were too

high, unleſs I was to grant fews in place of the long leaſes. I was firm in my opinion (and for many reaſons I am ſo ſtill), that a leaſe for ſuch ſmall lots of ground, is a much more proper tenure and title, than the feudal inveſtiture;—But upon this judicious hint, I reſolved to offer more encouraging propoſals for ſettlers in the village.

Accordingly I publiſhed advertiſements through the country, that for encouraging of ſettlers in the village in future, I was to grant leaſes of ground for houſes and gardens, at the rate of three pence per fall, in place of ſixpence, and that theſe leaſes were to be renewable for ever on payment at the end of every hundred years, of two years rent as a *graſſom*. At the ſame time in juſtice to my original ſettlers, I granted new leaſes to them on theſe advantageous terms.

The effect of this meaſure was popular beyond what I could imagine. In a few years the number of induſtrious inhabitants increaſed ſurpriſingly.—I have always conſidered it as a material part of my plan, that the ſettlers muſt build their own houſes. This regulation proved a real teſt of ſome merit in every ſettler, and effectually excluded the idle and deſtitute, who infeſt many of our villages.—In fact, every tradeſman who has been able to clear his way by building proper houſes, cultivating his garden ground, and putting in good order his little farm (all incloſed), is happy, and thriving beyond what they can be in neighbouring towns, where they can farm no more by induſtry, and pay, high rents for houſes and ſhops, without the precious accommodation of garden grounds and ſmall farms.—One of my tradeſmen poſſeſſes his houſe and an ample garden of 40 falls, for a rent of ten ſhillings. In the neighbouring towns of Montroſe or Brechin, he would

would pay from ſix to ten times that rent, for worſe accommodation in houſes only.

For ſeveral years I adhered ſtrictly to another ſalutary rule, that I gave no aids in credit or money to any of the ſettlers, till he had made conſiderable progreſs in his own ſettlement, and till I had ground to be ſatisfied of his prudence and induſtry. I then in many caſes advanced moderate aids in money upon ſecurity for ſome years without intereſt. It is remarkable that as long as I did adhere to this rule, the money was in every inſtance well laid out, and has actually been repaid.

My rage for advancing the village, grew too ſtrong for theſe prudential regulations: I was induced to embark with ſeveral ſplendid projectors, by whom I ſuffered conſiderable loſſes; I had an undertaker for a linen manufactory from the North,—a ſtocking weaver from Edinburgh;—and from London, I had a very flattering projector of a printing field.—Theſe different ſchemes went on for ſeveral years upon my credit, and to a large extent.—They all in the end miſcarried, and I by coſtly experience learned my error in departing from my original regulation, to give no aid in money or credit, except to thoſe who once ſettled themſelves, and appeared from their conduct, to deſerve aſſiſtance in a courſe of thriving.

I muſt however advert, that in my dealings with thoſe unſucceſsful adventurers, I happily adhered to my other original regulation, that every ſettler muſt build his own houſes, and from this circumſtance, I derived a very ſubſtantial relief of my loſſes: Every one of the three projectors built very good houſes for their ſeveral undertakings. Theſe houſes ſerved to induce good ſettlers, who now thrive and pay ſufficient rents.

About

About ſix or ſeven years ago, ſo many people had ſettled in the village; that my land for the ſmall adjoining farms was exhauſted.—I found this to be an obſtacle in its further progreſs for ſome time: to remedy this, having ſtill ground for village lots of houſe and garden, I made public advertiſements, that future ſettlers who ſhould build and make out their garden in any village lot, without any farm, ſhould be entitled to poſſeſs free of rent for the firſt ſeven years.—This encouragement had the intended effect, and now my ground for village lots is alſo exhauſted; ſo that I am obliged to treat with my tenants for land to accommodate new ſettlers, who now offer more than ever, on account of our excellent bleach-field lately eſtabliſhed by a very opulent company.

I ſhall be very happy if His Grace the Duke of Athol can diſcover any material information from theſe looſe hints, that may conduce to promote his generous and public ſpirited deſigns.—*I heartily wiſh all our men of family and fortune had the good ſenſe and taſte to purſue ſuch objects,—in place of riot, gambling, races, and a great part of their politics.*

I omitted to mention that after my village had increaſed to above ſeventy houſes, and contained above five hundred ſouls, I obtained the King's charter, by which it was erected, a free and independent burgh of barony, with powers to elect magiſtrates, and right to an annual fair and weekly market.—The ſubſtance of their charter is printed, and ſubjoined to a ſmall pamphlet, entitled, Letters to the people of Laurence Kirk, which contains well-meant admonitions, and has had a good effect.

After the eſtabliſhment of the village into a burgh and community, I aſſiſted them to frame certain fundamental,

tal, yet ſhort and ſimple bye laws, of which copies ſhall be ſent to the duke.—That they might have ſome fund for public uſes, I granted an obligation on me and my ſucceſſors, to pay their treaſurer ten pounds ſterling yearly, and they taxed themſelves in one penny per fall, of the village lots,—ſo that they have an income of about thirty pounds yearly, which will increaſe:—I ſhall alſo ſend to his grace a copy of a village leaſe.

Beſides the errors I have already confeſſed, I muſt not omit to mention two others. 1ſt, Before I began I did not conſiderately form a proper plan of the village.—The ſtreet is much too narrow and long; in the line of it no room is left for ſquares.—2dly, In meaſuring off the ground for village lots, I ought to have given no more room in front than was ſufficient for their dwelling houſes and ſhops.—This error has occaſioned various and now obvious inconveniences of office houſes, and unoccupied ground to the ſtreet.

Extract from a Diſcourſe on the Expediency of Eſtabliſhing Fiſhing Stations, or ſmall Towns, in the HIGHLANDS *of* SCOTLAND, *and the* HEBRIDE ISLANDS. *By* JOHN KNOX.*

The attention of all well-regulated ſtates has generally been directed to ſuch objects of national utility, as contributed to aſſiſt nature, and to employ the great body of the people.

The courſes of rivers have been directed into new channels; internal navigations, of conſiderable length and di-

* Read to an open Committee of the Highland Society at London, by their Secretary, March 28, 1786, as mentioned in page 77 of the *Diſſertations*.

menſions,

menſions, have been opened from ſea to ſea, through ſeemingly unſurmountable difficulties: even the ocean itſelf has been bounded; and, in many parts, the face of nature has undergone a total change.

Immenſe tracts of deſart land have been brought into cultivation; and, regions, which ſerved only to give ſhelter to the wild animals, became, through the perſevering hand of man, the ſeats of populous cities, of ſcience, and of refinement.

Theſe great efforts of human induſtry were rightly conſidered as the ground-work of manufactures, of commerce, and whatever contributed to the general welfare of communities, and to the ſtrength of nations. Of this, the annals of ancient, as well as of modern times abound in examples. The works of antiquity were, however, effected by potent empires, in the meridian of their glory; but thoſe of latter times, and ſome of them within the memory of man, have been generally undertaken and carried on by nations juſt emerging from obſcurity, as Ruſſia and Ireland, whoſe ſudden tranſition, from a ſtate of rude nature to that ſtation which renders them reſpectable in the eyes of mankind, has been the reſult of unremitting application, both in the legiſlature and individuals, as well as of liberal aids from the public revenue, without which, no objects of great national concern can be effectually executed.

It would ſeem alſo, by the exertions and the liberal grants of other European ſtates, as France, Auſtria, and Pruſſia, that a ſpirit of internal improvement, has, within the preſent century, wiſely pervaded the greateſt part of Europe, while the eſſential intereſts of Britain have been, in a great meaſure, ſacrificed to deluſive ſchemes

of

of commercial monopoly, at the diſtance of three thouſand miles from the centre.

Immediately after the Reſtoration, when peace and good humour were reſtored to this kingdom, the active genius of the people led them to colonization in the wilds of North America, upon the idea of raiſing new cuſtomers for their manufactures and merchandize; while a third part of their native and very improvable country remained in a ſtate of nature.

This was particularly the condition of the Northern part of the iſland: the Lowlands exhibited almoſt one general ruin, owing to the civil and religious commotions which had diſtracted that unhappy country, from the death of James V. in 1542 to the Reſtoration in 1660, and which did not finally ſubſide till the Revolution in 1688.

During theſe diſtreſsful ages, and almoſt down to the preſent day, the more remote diſtricts of Scotland, called the Highlands, remained nearly in the ſtate in which nature had formed them; a *terra incognita*, deemed unworthy of notice, and incapable of being rendered uſeful to Government, or the Public.

Such was the half-improved ſtate of theſe kingdoms, when it was reſolved to extend the lines of empire, by including an immenſe continent, lying on the oppoſite ſide of the Atlantic, by which it was affirmed, that England would derive not only great wealth, but alſo a greater degree of ſtrength and national importance.

In ſupport of this new ſyſtem, the coloniſts were permitted to ſupply the mother-country with ſhipping, and to become in a certain degree its carriers. All American-built ſhips were to be admitted into our ports, with all the privileges of Britiſh: but the Britiſh ſhips, when they arrived in America, were burdened with tonnage duties and other expences, from which the colony-built veſſels were exempted. The ſame partiality extended to American

rican ſeamen, who, in all the ſubſequent wars, were not liable to be preſſed into the naval ſervice, which, conſequently, threw the whole burden of that ſervice upon the merchants and mariners of the mother country.

This ſyſtem of colonization, begun and carried on at the expence of Great Britain, was warmly, but ineffectually oppoſed by ſome able politicians of the laſt century; particularly by Sir Joſiah Child and Doctor Davenant, whoſe predictions have been too completely fulfilled, with the additional mortifying circumſtance, which they could not have imagined, that our new cuſtomers have coſt this country above one hundred and fifty millions, in ſupporting their civil eſtabliſhments; in bounties on the American produce; in defending the colonies againſt the Indian depredations, and the incroachments of the French; and, finally, in an unſucceſsful ſtruggle to retain their allegiance.

The effects of this expenditure have reached all deſcriptions of men, and afforded ample matter for political declamation, both in parliament, and out of it.

Let us colonize in America, by which we ſhall be enriched, was the language of the laſt century. Let us abandon that diſtant country, by which we have been impoveriſhed, is the language of the preſent day. Let us look at home, improve and ſtrengthen the centre, is happily the favorite topic of mankind, of whatever deſcription or party, from one end of the iſland to the other.

While this patriotic ſpirit predominates in the nation, and while Government are ſtrongly diſpoſed to co-operate with the wiſhes of the people, there is reaſon to hope, that our envied iſland will ultimately profit by its misfortunes,

tunes, and riſe with additional ſplendour from its apparent ruins.

When all the hitherto neglected ſources of agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and fiſheries, ſhall be brought forward, and when every pound expended on theſe great objects ſhall annually, and for a perpetuity, realize many pounds, enthuſiaſm itſelf falls ſhort in its ſpeculative eſtimates of the height to which Great Britain may yet arrive.

In contemplating theſe ſubjects, it naturally occurs, that the objects which contribute moſt effectually to the ſtrength of the navy, ſhould take the lead in the arrangements of future operations. The ſtrength of the Navy depends chiefly on the extent of our maritime coaſt; the number of people who inhabit that coaſt; and the nature of the buſineſs on which they are moſt generally employed. It is owing to the happy ſituation of Great Britain in theſe reſpects, that we have been able to fit out ſuch mighty armaments, and to carry on an almoſt unequalled commerce over a great part of the habitable world. By theſe, the Britiſh name is known and reſpected among the ſavage, as well as the civilized nations. But, as the force which may hereafter be brought againſt us, by a confederacy of naval powers, may far exceed the uſual magnitude of our armaments, it ſeems indiſpenſably neceſſary to take a ſurvey of our native coaſts, and to bring forward a proportionable increaſe of ſtrength from parts, which, during the rage for territory in the weſtern hemiſphere, were totally overlooked.

The coaſt of Great Britain comprehends nearly two thouſand miles, of which about four hundred miles, in the northern part, are not furniſhed with a town, harbour,

bour, or place where a ſhip in diſtreſs can be ſupplied with an anchor, cable, or ſail. From the want of theſe materials, and of perſons to repair the damages occaſioned by ſtreſs of weather, or other cauſes, many valuable lives, as well as veſſels and cargoes, are loſt to theſe kingdoms. From a coaſt ſo ill provided in whatever relates to navigation, the royal navy cannot be furniſhed with the neceſſary ſupplies of ſeamen and carpenters, when called for, by the emergencies of the ſtate.

To this great line of coaſt on the main-land of the Highlands, is to be added the circumference of the principal Hebride Iſlands, making ſix hundred miles; the whole, one thouſand miles; on which there is only the ſmall town of Stornoway, in the Hebrides; and the inconſiderable places called Thurſo, Wick, and Dornoch, on the eaſt ſide of the main-land, being conſiderably leſs than one town, or rather village, to every two hundred and fifty miles.

The number of people throughout the whole coaſt, including the iſles, may amount to two hundred thouſand, or two hundred for each mile; beſides one hundred thouſand inhabiting the glens and interior parts of the main-land, who, were the coaſts in a flouriſhing ſtate, would reſort thither in great numbers annually, inſtead of emigrating with their wives and children to diſtant regions, from whence few ever return; and the nation thereby ſuſtains a conſtant drain of perſons, who, from their bravery in war, their hardineſs, agility, temperance, ſimplicity of manners, and domeſtic qualities, it would be highly expedient to retain on their native ſoil.*

Nature

* *Extract of a Letter from the Weſt Highlands, March*, 1786.

Mr. ——— has been at Greenock, to engage a tranſport to carry the Knoidart people to Canada: there are already, at leaſt, three

Nature has pointed out, in ſtriking characters, the means whereby that coaſt might be rendered ſubſervient to the great purpoſes of the navy, as the primary object; beſides the advantages that would ariſe to manufactures and commerce, from the eſtabliſhment of a thriving, populous colony in theſe extreme parts of our iſland.

The generality of people who inhabit theſe ſhores have a ſtrong propenſity to a ſea life, particularly to fiſheries; and no country in the known world is better ſituated for extending that branch on every ſide, and at all ſeaſons of the year. It is an eſtabliſhed fact, that the Northern Ocean is the grand receptacle of fiſh in endleſs varieties, and in ſuch numbers as to exceed the powers of imagination to conceive. Some of the leſſer ſpecies multiply by thouſands, as the herring; others by millions, as the cod-fiſh †. Of theſe, and other fiſhes, as ling, tuſk, haddock, the coaſts of Scotland, and more eſpecially of the Highlands, have a double ſupply: firſt, the home or native fiſh, which propagate on the coaſt through the whole year; and, ſecondly, the great annual migrations from the northern latitudes within the Arctic Circle, which, after paying the Britiſh kingdoms a temporary viſit, are again loſt in the immenſity of the ocean.

three hundred paſſengers engaged, and it is thought that there will be many more. The veſſel is to be at the iſle of Oranſy the beginning of June. Theſe people, when once they ſettle in Canada, will encourage others, as they are now encouraged by ſome friends before them; this will form a chain of emigration: it is thought the country will be converted into a ſheep walk. Should this grow general, and our gallant Highlanders deſert us, I fear all the ſheep that can be introduced and reared will form, in their ſtead, but a ſorry defence againſt our enemies."

The number of people that embarked, amounted to 550. At this time, June 1781, 70000 acres of land are advertiſed to be let upon the eſtate of Ardnamarchan, on the ſame coaſt.

† Philoſophical Tranſactions.

The fiſheries carried on at preſent by the northern inhabitants conſiſt of the home fiſhery immediately upon their ſhores, and in the lakes and bays, by which theſe ſhores are every where indented, from one to twenty miles within land. The varieties moſt uſually caught on theſe ſhores are herrings, white-fiſh, flat-fiſh, mackarel, dog-fiſh, and ſeals. Shell-fiſh alſo abounds, but is much neglected, excepting lobſters for the London market; oyſters, which are ſometimes burnt unopened for manure to the land; and leſſer fiſh, which are ſold to the inhabitants of the before-mentioned towns, at an incredible low price.

Secondly, there is a diſtant fiſhery for herring, cod, ling, and tuſk, around the Shetland Iſlands on the north-eaſt, and Iceland on the north-weſt; both of which ſtations are regularly frequented by many veſſels from the maritime kingdoms of Europe; while the ſhare which the Scots have in this diſtant fiſhery is little more than a name; nor have they been able to carry on even the home fiſhery to any conſiderable extent, comparatively to what that fiſhery admits of. Still leſs is the ſhare that has fallen to the lot of the poor native Highlanders, on whoſe immediate ſhores, perſons from diſtant parts make their annual captures. Whereas, by improving theſe fiſheries, and by a continued ſucceſſion of fiſhing and ſailing, theſe northern ſhores would be ready at all times to furniſh a very powerful ſupply of excellent ſeamen; but, in the preſent ſtate of the country, no effectual exertions can be made, even in that fiſhery which its lakes and bays afford. Here is a conſiderable body of people without capital, and a coaſt without towns where the natives can be ſupplied with nets, caſks, ſalt, hooks, lines, and proviſions.—Here are no places where fiſhers, women and children, from diſtant

parts, can be accommodated with lodgings, either while in health or in ſickneſs. The inhabitants of theſe ſhores have but ſcanty dwellings to themſelves, and are equally ill provided in neceſſaries for the accommodation of perſons who would flock thither in the fiſhing ſeaſons.

This deplorable ſtate of the Highlands having been lately repreſented in ſtrong colours to the feelings and ſerious attention of the public, and the increaſe of ſeamen being alſo an object of great national importance, the legiſlature has already entered upon the ſubject of promoting the northern fiſheries, and of removing ſeveral impediments, which have hitherto retarded their progreſs. Other objects of a ſimilar nature are now in contemplation.—But no laws, however judicious, no regulations, however expedient, can extend and ſecure a permanent fiſhery and nurſery of ſeamen upon theſe ſhores, unleſs the public ſhall, at the ſame time, accommodate the natives, and thoſe who may be diſpoſed to come among them, with habitations and lodgings, upon or near the moſt frequented fiſhing grounds, and where theſe perſons may be furniſhed with the neceſſaries of life, and all the materials for boat-building, fiſhing, packing, and curing.

This implies the eſtabliſhing of FISHING STATIONS, or ſmall FREE TOWNS, in the moſt eligible ſituations, both on the mainland, and on the Hebride Iſlands, which front the extenſive line of weſtern coaſt at greater or leſs diſtances, and where the ſhoals of herrings paſs, in their annual migrations to the ſouth, filling ſometimes one lake, ſometimes another; which fiſhery, were the natives better accommodated, would prove a ſource of great national wealth; employ thouſands of indigent people of both ſexes; and bring forward into the line of active, uſeful

induſtry, a country that compoſes a fifth part of Great Britain.

With a view to theſe important objects, as well as to the nurſery of ſeamen, I formerly propoſed that the public ſhould erect, by way of experiment, ſome ſtations on the weſt coaſt of the main-land, each ſtation or town to be compoſed of fifteen or twenty ſmall houſes; beſides ſome public works neceſſary for ſhipping and fiſheries. But the ſtate of the national finances, and the uncertainty of the ſources neceſſary for the exigencies of Government, did not at that time afford much reaſon to expect immediate aſſiſtance, and theſe diſtreſſed countries of the Highlands have conſequently remained in *ſtatu quo*.

In this dilemma, ſome gentlemen, who are members of the Houſe of Commons, have ſuggeſted the idea of raiſing a fund by means of a general ſubſcription; and, as all degrees of people in Great Britain will be more or leſs benefited by this maritime colony within our own iſland, it may be preſumed, that gentlemen of affluence and public ſpirit will come forward upon this occaſion, and merit the appellation of—THE FRIENDS OF THEIR COUNTRY.

By thus planting a coaſt of one thouſand miles with hardy, intrepid ſeamen, any hoſtile deſigns of enemies will be fruſtrated; their formidable armaments, inſtead of annoying our commerce and diſtant ſettlements, will be permitted to remain in their dock-yards probably for many years: during which ſeaſon of peace and ſecurity, commerce and manufactures will flouriſh; adminiſtration will be enabled to put the public burdens into a train of redemption, and have leiſure to proſecute ſuch meaſures of national policy as may from time to time be found expedient.

To

To theſe negative advantages, which will in a great meaſure flow from this new eſtabliſhment, may be added the ſaving of ſeventy, eighty, or one hundred millions, the uſual expenditures upon every ſeven years war; compared to which, the expence of the propoſed towns will be mere fractions.—Every war entails upon the ſubject a long train of heavy taxes; but the meaſure now propoſed requires only a trifle, for a time, from thoſe who are able to advance it; and which, inſtead of taxes, will raiſe thouſands of new cuſtomers for manufactures of broad-cloth, woollens, hardware, cutlery, and an endleſs aſſortment of leſſer articles, for which England is famed.

Sir Charles Whitworth's Commercial Tables ſtate, the annual exports from England to Scotland, previouſly to the Union of the two Kingdoms in 1707, at 65,345l. At preſent there are good grounds for ſuppoſing they have increaſed thirty-fold in value, being nearly 2,000,000l. Were the northern fiſheries improved, and the people fully employed, the exports to that diviſion of the kingdom would increaſe proportionably.

Theſe are the grounds on which we entertain a hope, that the members of the Highland Societies of London and Edinburgh, and other noblemen and gentlemen, will ſubſcribe to this plan, and thereby enable a ſufficient number of gentlemen of rank and fortune to enter, as truſtees or directors, upon the buſineſs of treating with the proprietors of lands, and with workmen for erecting certain ſmall plain buildings by contract.

The Deſcription of the Maritime Parts of the Highlands, and of the Hebride Iſles; with the propoſed Plan of the Villages, which were added to the above diſcourſe, are copied in the firſt part of this Volume, page 95.

Abſtract of the Act for incorporating the Britiſh Society.

'THE preamble ſtates the great want of improvement 'in fiſheries, agriculture, and manufactures, in the High-'lands and iſlands of North Britain—The prevalence of 'emigration, from the want of employment in thoſe parts '---The proſpect of a new nurſery of ſeamen, by the 'eſtabliſhment of fiſhing towns and villages in that quar-'ter---The act therefore declares, that the perſons therein 'named, and every other perſon or perſons who ſhall there-'after become proprietors of the joint ſtock mentioned 'therein, ſhall be a diſtinct and ſeparate body politic and 'corporate, by the name of *the Britiſh Society for extending 'the Fiſheries and improving the Sea Coaſts of this Kingdom*--- 'That the ſaid ſociety may raiſe a capital joint ſtock not 'exceeding one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, to 'be applied to purchaſing or otherwiſe acquiring lands and 'tenements in perpetuity, for the building thereon, and on 'no other land whatever, free towns, villages, and fiſhing 'ſtations---That the joint ſtock ſhall be divided into 'ſhares of fifty pounds each---That no one perſon ſhall in 'his or her name poſſeſs more than ten ſhares or 500l. '---That the ſociety ſhall not borrow any ſum or ſums of 'money whatſoever---That the ſums to be advanced for this 'undertaking, and the profits ariſing therefrom, ſhall be 'divided proportionably to the ſums ſubſcribed; and that 'no perſon ſhall be liable for a larger ſum than he or ſhe 'ſhall have reſpectively ſubſcribed---That one or two ſhares 'ſhall entitle to one vote and no more, in perſon or by 'proxy, at all meetings of proprietors; three or four 'ſhares, to two votes; five, ſix, or ſeven ſhares, to three 'votes; eight or nine ſhares, to four votes; and ten ſhares, 'to five votes and no more---That more perſons than one 'inclining to hold in their joint names one or more ſhares, 'ſhall be entitled to vote, by one of ſuch perſons, according 'to the priority of their names, or by proxy---That bodies 'corporate ſhall vote by proxy under their ſeal---That all 'perſons holding proxies ſhall be proprietors, and that no

'one

'one perſon ſhall hold more than five votes by proxy---That 'the affairs of the ſociety ſhall be managed by a go- 'vernor, deputy governor, and thirteen other directors, to 'be elected annually, on the 25th of March, from among 'the proprietors of the ſociety, holding at leaſt one full ſhare, 'by ſigned liſts of their names to be tranſmitted by the pro- 'prietors to the ſecretary of the ſociety---That five pro- 'prietors, not being governor, director, or other officer, 'ſhall be in like manner annually elected to audit the ac- 'counts of the ſociety---That there ſhall be one general 'meeting of the proprietors annually, on the 25th of March '---That occaſional general meetings ſhall be called on the 'requeſt of nine or more proprietors---That the general 'meetings of the proprietors ſhall make all bye-laws and con- 'ſtitutions for the government of the ſociety, and for the 'good and orderly carrying on of the buſineſs of the ſame '---That no tranſfer ſhall be made of the ſtock of the ſo- 'ciety for three years, from the 10th of Auguſt 1786--- 'That the caſh of the ſociety ſhall be lodged in the Bank of 'England, Bank of Scotland, or the Royal Bank of Scot- 'land---That no director, proprietor, agent, or officer of 'the ſociety, ſhall retain any ſum or ſums of money in his 'hands beyond the ſpace of thirty days, on any account 'whatſoever---That all payments by the ſociety ſhall be 'made by drafts on the ſaid banks, under the hands of the 'governor or deputy governor, counterſigned by the ſecre- 'tary or his deputy, and two or more directors---And that 'the books in which the accounts of the ſociety ſhall be kept, 'ſhall be open to all the proprietors.'

Such being the powers which the legiſlature has already granted to the ſociety for the attainment of the important objects of their inſtitution, the directors cannot entertain a doubt of the countenance and ſupport of every real well-wiſher to the proſperity, ſtrength, and honour of Great Britain.

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ERRATA.

Page 44, line 9, of the Journal, *for* free-stone quarry, *read* stone quarry.

—— 63, line 16, *for* Oban, *read* Tobirmory.

—— 71, line 18, *for* found, *read* formed.

—— 140, line 17, *for* Deer, Hare and Wild Fowl, *read* Deer and Wild Fowl.

—— 176, line 22, *for* Ross-shire *read* Ross

—— 221, line 11, *for* its general navigation, *read* general navigation.

—— 227, line 19, *for* [illegible] is moderate.

[illegible] *exhibited* [illegible] *of £5; R.* [illegible] *Royal Ex-* [illegible] *Edinburgh;*

[illegible] *of the North of* [illegible] *chiefly Scot-* [illegible] *with some Proposals for the Improvement of that* [illegible] *the Extention of its Fisheries, and the Relief* [illegible] *People. By J. Knox. The third edition, in two* [illegible] *Octavo. Price 12s. bound.*

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